

Hafa Adai!

Up to \$750 fine for driving past curfew. **PAGE 5**

Planning for the inevitable: Living wills and more. **PAGE 9**

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Saipan Tribune

RELIEF GOODS

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation handed out relief goods to community members yesterday at its office on Middle Road, with those lining up for the relief goods still observing social distancing.

KRIZEL TUAZON

**FAQs on
'stimulus
checks'**

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PAGE 2**

CHCC switches alert system

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has switched its method of monitoring COVID-19 cases from the "Text Illness Monitoring" system to what is called the Sara Alert system. The latter would allow CNMI public health of-

ficials to enroll individuals at risk of developing coronavirus infection.

Like the T.I.M system, Sara Alert can inform CNMI public health officials of any symptoms they're having, giving health officials real-time insights into the virus' transmission in the community, and will allow

See CHCC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, April 20, 2020

GUAM

Positive: **136**
Recovered: **112**
Deaths: **6***

CNMI

Positive: **14**
Recovered: **9**
Deaths: **2**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

No robbery at LC Market

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Following an investigation yesterday, the Department of Public Safety was able to confirm that the surveillance footage of a supposed robbery on Saipan that went viral did not, in fact, happen here.

According to a press statement from DPS, the department did not receive any report of a store robbery over the weekend but, because of the video, officers were dispatched to check on all stores and to follow up if this incident did take place. The video of the robbery allegedly took place at LC Market in Gua-

See ROBBERY on Page 4

Arrivals sink 85% in March

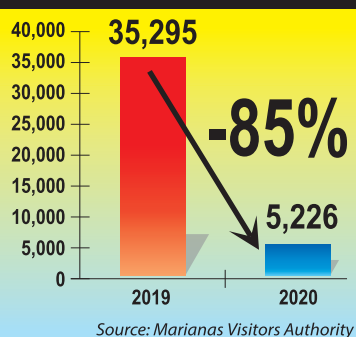
Arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota dropped 85% to just 5,226 visitors last March, compared to 35,295 visitors posted in March 2019.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority numbers released yesterday, arrivals from China dropped from 16,558 arrivals to only 65 arrivals in March 2020.

Arrivals from Korea dropped 82% year-on-year to 2,450 visitors in March 2020 following the cancella-

See ARRIVALS on Page 4

Visitor Arrivals Mar. 2019 vs. Mar. 2020



Lockdown politics increasingly pit economic, health concerns

By WILL WEISSERT, JILL COLVIN and
FRANK JORDANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The global health crisis is taking a nasty political turn with tensions worsening between governments locked down to keep the coronavirus at bay and people yearning to restart stalled economies and forestall fears of a depression.

Protesters worrying about their livelihoods and bucking infringements on their freedom have taken to the streets in some places. A few countries are acting to ease restrictions, but most of the world remains unified in insisting it's much too early to take more aggressive steps.

In the United States, there is clear evidence of the mounting pressure.

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

First Hawaiian Bank will cash any CARES Act stimulus check with no fees assessed.

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NATION

New research suggests that more people have had the coronavirus without any symptoms.

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LIFE & STYLE

Idris Elba says he and his wife had their lives "turned around" after contracting the coronavirus.

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Local

FAQs on economic impact payments, or ‘stimulus checks’

Economic impact payments or “stimulus checks” are direct payments to you from the federal government. It will be distributed by the CNMI Department of Finance.

How much will you get?

■ Individuals earning up to \$75,000 will receive \$1,200.

■ Couples earning up to \$150,000 will receive \$2,400.

■ For every qualifying child in the household, you will receive \$500.

■ If you made more than \$75,000, your payment will be reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income that exceeds the limits. (Ex. If you made \$80,000 in 2019, you will receive \$950.)

■ Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

■ Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or

\$2,400 for married couples and up to \$500 for each qualifying child.

How will you receive your stimulus check?

■ Stimulus checks will be issued via direct deposit or by check and mailed to the address indicated on the return, or last known address. Because of the preparation needed to ensure you get your stimulus check.

When will I receive my stimulus check?

■ Payments are expected to be issued by mid-May, as informed by the Internal Revenue Service. The Department of Finance will provide additional public guidance regarding disbursement dates.

I am a minor, age 17, do I qualify?

■ You may qualify if you are not claimed as a dependent and must file a return. If your parents claim you as a dependent on their taxes, you’re not eligible. However, CNMI DRT is seeking additional guidance on eligi-

bility requirements.

I have no reportable income for 2019, do I qualify?

■ Yes. You must file a 2019 income tax return and report zero income. You also must have a valid social security number and meet the CNMI residency requirements for tax purposes.

I’m a college student. Do I get a check?

■ If you’ve been working and filing taxes independently in recent years, you may qualify. If your parents claim you as a dependent on their taxes, you’re ineligible.

(For CW and other work visa holders) My immigration permit has expired in 2020, do I still qualify?

■ CWs and other work visa holders are generally eligible. However, DRT is seeking guidance from the IRS on eligibility of resident aliens (including CWs) who were an eligible individual in 2019 for tax purposes, but status is expired in 2020.

Please ensure that your CW permit or work visa is valid and not expired.

I have past due child support obligations; will this affect my stimulus check?

■ Yes, your past due child support obligations may be offset from your stimulus check.

I have past due income tax obligations; will this affect my stimulus check?

■ No, the CARES Act does not allow offsets against federal or local income tax obligations.

I am a Social Security beneficiary; do I have to file a return to receive a stimulus check?

■ Yes, but the IRS has informed the Division of Revenue and Taxation that Social Security recipients will need to file a 1040 tax

form for 2019 to receive a stimulus check.

My income or dependents may have changed since my 2018 return, will my stimulus check be adjusted?

■ The stimulus amount issued based on the 2018 or 2019 return will be adjusted in the 2020 income tax return, only to the benefit of the taxpayer. If you are entitled to additional funds, you will receive the remaining amount. If you received more than you are entitled to, you will not be required to repay the difference in the amount.

I want to opt for direct deposit of my EIP “stimulus check.” Where can I go to do this?

■ The Department of Finance is currently developing a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the Division of Revenue &

Taxation online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail. A press release will be issued as soon as it becomes available.

Is Division of Revenue & Taxation open to receive my income tax return?

■ Yes, DRT remains open during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm, for “receiving and cashier services only.”

■ Please submit your tax returns in the drop-box available. DRT reminds taxpayers of social distancing and as a courtesy to front line workers, please wear a mask or face-covering when entering the office.

I need to file a return; how long will economic impact payments be available?

■ Stimulus checks will be issued through Dec. 31, 2020. (Office of the Governor)

Skymark ‘eager to resume Saipan-Japan flights’



The Commonwealth Ports Authority's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting special unit renders a water salute over the Skymark Airlines plane during its inaugural daily direct flight from Tokyo, Japan, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Nov. 29.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Skymark Airlines Inc. is eager to resume Japan-Saipan flights once everything is “clear” from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Skymark official yesterday.

Skymark International Flight Operation Office assistant general manager John Furuya said it was unfortunate that they had to extend their suspension for the Narita-Saipan flights until May 31, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*’s inquiry about the extension of the flight suspension, Furuya also disclosed that they are currently operat-

ing only about a third of their available seat capacity in Japan domestically.

He said they are following the most up-to-date guidelines from Japanese authorities and adapting their services to meet the public needs in the safest way possible.

“Needless to say, not only the aviation industry, but everyone has been hit hard by COVID-19,” Furuya said. He said many airline service companies and industrial partners are being forced to furlough or lay off workers everywhere in the world. Some are facing the prospect of shutting down operations completely.

Furuya said they are watching for an opportunity to come

back to Saipan/CNMI “once the day has come.”

Skymark’s last flights between Saipan and Japan were last March 25. The company’s original plan was for the suspension to last only until May 10, 2020. Over the weekend, Skymark announced their decision to extend the suspension of all flight operations between Narita and Saipan until May 31, noting the decreased travel demand and the enforcement of quarantine measures by the CNMI and Japanese governments.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said Skymark’s decision was foreseeable, given the circumstances.

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Senate to tackle bill that guarantees 25% of retiree pension

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

Senate will be deliberating today a bill that would guarantee 25% of retirees' pension through the allotment of \$15 million from the casino license fees.

House Bill 21-76, HS1,

OAG asks for 30-day extension to file a notice of appeal in hit-and-run case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has requested the Superior Court to give the CNMI government 30 more days to appeal a decision about restitution issue in a fatal vehicular hit-and-run case.

Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. said the extension is needed to allow Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to address the government's motion for reconsideration of his ruling.

Last March 30, Camacho ruled that the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. are not entitled to restitution over Melton Agulto's death because they are only third-party indirect victims.

Camacho denied the government's request to hold defendant Esekial "Easy" Smith liable to pay \$1,866 in restitution for the medical services provided by DFEMS and CHCC to Agulto.

The judge, however, found that Smith is liable for \$4,972 in restitution to Agulto's mother, Gloria Cabrera. Smith conceded he owed that amount.

The OAG then filed the motion that asks Camacho to reconsider his ruling.

In the government's request for extension, Glass said the issue is very narrow and should not take long for Camacho to consider and decide. However,

which unanimously passed in a House of Representatives session last Thursday, would repeal Public Law 20-10 that designates the casino gross revenue tax collections as the source of money for the retirees' pension. "Currently, under [P.L.] 20-10, the license fee is

being distributed to the senatorial districts, and the retirees' portion has been, under [P.L.] 20-10, moved to the [Casino Gross Revenue Tax]. Unfortunately, [with] no collections of CGRT, retirees are not getting their full pension," House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao

(R-Saipan) said during the session. "[Under the new bill] the \$15 million in the license fee shall be dedicated strictly for the 25% of the retirees.

"This legislation will dedicate all \$15 million of the license fee that is due every end of August early September,

and will carry the 25% for the full fiscal year for the retirees," he added.

Attao lamented that the retirees were not able to get their full pension last week, on April 15, with pension checks short by 25%. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier announced that the government would be unable to pay 25% of pension payments, due to the injunction pushed by members of the Board of Education.

At the House session, Attao stated that the bill is not new, that it was introduced as H.B. 19-21 and H.B. 20-28, in the 19th and 20th Commonwealth

Legislatures, respectively, and that both never made it to the governor's desk for action.

In an earlier interview, the House speaker said that "unfortunately, we got to this point, when we could have prevented this from happening."

"They [the retirees] have to be paid the 25% no matter what because the Constitution is very clear that the retiree must receive their pension in whole. Although the Settlement Fund is only giving them the 75%. The 25% is the obligation of the central government to make sure that the retirees get their full pension," Attao added.

Glass said, should the government file a notice of appeal, it is likely that jurisdiction will become an issue. The prosecutor said it seems provident to provide Camacho with more time to consider and make a ruling, rather than rush to an appeal.

He said there is also an obvious fact that should Camacho grant the government's request and award restitution to Agulto, it would avert the need for an appeal.

Currently, the notice of appeal would be due by April 29, 2020. A 30-day extension would give the parties until May 29, 2020, to file a notice of appeal.

In the government's motion for reconsideration, Glass asserted that Camacho should amend his judgment to include the \$1,866 bill from CHCC and DFEMS to be paid to Agulto. Glass said there is no question that Agulto is the direct victim in this case and to deny his estate recovery for these bills would be clear error and manifest injustice.

In Smith's opposition to the motion for reconsideration, assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues said that Agulto is not entitled to restitution for his hospital bills because he is dead and cannot pay any bills himself.

According to court records, after midnight on Aug. 19, 2018, Smith, who was driving north in Puerto Rico, hit Agulto as the latter was walking in the middle of the street. Smith fled the scene after the

accident. Agulto died as a result of his injuries.

Later that day, Smith voluntarily surrendered to the police.

On Jan. 30, 2019, Smith pleaded guilty to the charges of leaving an accident scene and reckless driving. He was

sentenced to five years and six months in prison, with the last six months suspended. Smith was ordered to pay restitution to Agulto's family. The parties disagreed as to how much was owed in restitution and to whom.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the CNMI Office of Planning & Development to construct *the Garapan Revitalization Project in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project is located in the "Garapan Core" district of Saipan. The project will involve A/E design and construction of improvements to the streets of the Garapan Core. The project will re-grade and re-pave approximately 10,685 total linear feet of streets within the district. Additionally, it will construct concrete curbs and sidewalks on both sides of the streets. Re-paved streets will generally be 24 ft. wide, with minimum 6 ft.-wide sidewalks. The project will include street lighting and landscaping as appropriate for a tourism district in a tropical environment. All construction works will occur within existing public rights-of-way. Streets to be improved include: Plumeria Ave. (north & south sections), Ginger Ave. (north & south sections), Coffee Tree Mall St., Royal Palm Ave., Coconut St., Date St., Paseo de Marianas, Palm St., Micro Beach Rd. (between Coral Tree Av. and Beach Rd.), and Beach Rd. (from Micro Beach Rd. to Garapan St.).

Project information is available for review at *Office of Planning & Development, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building, Caller Box 10007, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 or by calling 670-237-2200 or 670-488-1221.*

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174
RDimmick@eda.gov

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm eastern on May 22, 2020, will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

Municipal ID renewals OK'd via online, curbside pick-up service

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan has temporarily closed its office to the public in response to the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives. While in-person services are suspended until further notice, the office will be providing Municipal ID Renewals through an online submission and scheduled curbside pick-up service.

Effective April 27, 2020 the Office of the Mayor of Saipan's ID section will be providing an online submission and scheduled curbside pick-up service on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8am to 12pm. All required documents must be submitted online. Tuesdays and Thursdays will be designated for receiving and processing new IDs (applications can still be

submitted online on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, but won't be ready until the next scheduled pick up date). Early application submissions are currently being accepted.

Visit www.saipanmayor.net and download the Municipal ID application. Municipal ID renewal/replacement requires a copy of the receipt of payment (under 18 years of age \$7; 18 to 54 years old, \$15; 55 years old or older \$7, disabled \$7), municipal ID application, copy of the expired/current municipal ID card, copy of receipt, application and ID via email to fdiaz@mos.gov.mp.

Allow 24 hours for processing and completion of ID and/or during the next scheduled pick-up date. (PR)

Closures await businesses violating COVID-19 mandate

LOCKDOWN

From Page 1

The Trump administration says parts of the nation are ready to begin a gradual return to normalcy. Yet some state leaders say their response to the pandemic is hindered by a woefully inadequate federal response.

After insisting the country's virus testing system was without fault, President Donald Trump announced Sunday evening that he would be using the Defense Production Act to compel increased manufacturing of testing swabs—one of several products governors have been begging the president to help them acquire. White House officials will also be holding a call Monday with the nation's governors to help walk them through where to find supplies, he said.

Trump also remained defensive, however, vowing that there were

enough swabs to go around. "Swabs are easy," the president said, bringing one to his news briefing and waving it in front of reporters.

That came hours after Washington state's Democratic governor, Jay Inslee, accused Trump of encouraging insubordination and "illegal activity" by goading protesters who flouted shelter-in-place rules his own administration has encouraged.

"To have an American president to encourage people to violate the law, I can't remember any time during my time in America where we have seen such a thing," Inslee told ABC's "This Week." He said it was "dangerous because it can inspire people to ignore things that actually can save their lives."

Trump supporters in several states have ignored social distancing and stay-at-home orders, gathering to demand that governors lift controls on public activity. The largest protest drew thousands to Lansing, Mich., on Wednesday, and others

have featured hundreds in several states. The president has invoked their rallying cry, calling on some states with Democratic governors to "LIBERATE," and he defended the demonstrations Sunday night, saying "these people love our country. They want to go back to work."

Inslee likened Trump's response to "schizophrenia." Larry Hogan, the Republican governor of Maryland, said it "just doesn't make any sense."

"We're sending completely conflicting messages out to the governors and to the people, as if we should ignore federal policy and federal recommendations," Hogan said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Shutdowns have disrupted economic, social, cultural and religious life and plunged the world into a deep economic slump unseen since the Great Depression. Tens of millions of workers have lost their jobs and millions more fear they'll be next.

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Immediate closure awaits businesses that are found violating the social distancing directive.

Almost a month ago, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres restricted business operations in the CNMI, in order to limit points of interactions between people, as part of the mitigating measures for COVID-19.

Under the business mandate of the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directive, most recently released by the Office of the Governor, businesses will be closed for up to a year if found to be in violation of the 6-foot social distancing guidance.

Based on the mandate, businesses should only open from 6am to 6pm.

Visible customer lineup markers that are 6 feet apart, leading to a cashier counter or place of transaction, must be in place. Postings of "one-way" flow signs for entrances and "one-way" flow signs for exits is also required.

Businesses must also control the flow of traffic in their establishments, and the number of customers within

public facilities are to be limited, at any time, to 50% of the permitted occupancy.

Restaurants and catering services are not allowed to open their dine-in facilities, but are permitted to provide drive-thru, take-out, curbside pickup, and delivery services.

Gas stations may remain open past curfew hours (7pm to 6am) but only for the dispensing of gasoline. A station's convenience store should be closed before 6am or after 6pm. Gas stations can, however, provide curbside convenience items until closing time, particularly as first responders drive back home.

Businesses engaged in recreational or amusement type activities and gaming, such as casinos, video poker establishments, and e-gaming facilities, are to remain closed.

Any business that would violate the mandate will be subject to an immediate one-month closure for first-time offense violators; an immediate six-month closure for second-time offense violators; and an immediate one-year closure for third-time or more offense violators.



Demonstrators disregard social distancing guidelines as they crowd together at a protest opposing Washington state's stay-home order to slow the coronavirus outbreak Sunday, April 19, 2020, in Olympia, Wash. AP

CHCC

From Page 1

CHCC staff to monitor individuals who are exhibiting symptoms of the disease. However, unlike the T.I.M system, which relies on text messaging only, Sara Alert offers multiple access methods, including web, text, email, and phone calls. According to CHCC's website, Sara Alert will increase the efficiency in tracking potential cases, which will lead to earlier containment of the virus and reducing the "burden on public health resources."

"T.I.M was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, whereas Sara Alert was developed by a not-for-profit organization called MITRE, in collaboration with federal, state and local public health agencies," the CHCC website states.

Sara Alert is also free and available to the public through the CHCC website.

To date, a total of 244 individu-

als who have completed the mandatory 14-day quarantine have been released from the Pacific Island Club Saipan isolation site in San Antonio and the Kanoa Resort in Susupe. A total of 118 were released between April 6 and April 12 and another 126 have been released since then.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista earlier said that once an individual completes the quarantine period, CHCC will issue that individual a certificate indicating that they have successfully completed quarantine.

According to CHCC, its and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force are still working out a test plan for the community and are working to organize a free and open testing option for those who want to be tested.

"It's important to remember that testing is only a tool to help us [CHCC] combat the virus by helping to contain it. Getting tested for COVID-19 doesn't improve your body's response to the illness, nor does it reduce your risk of contracting or transmitting the disease. Even if you're

tested and the result is negative, you are still vulnerable to the virus," the CHCC statement said.

So far, the CNMI has a total of 14 coronavirus cases, with 51 negatives, nine recoveries, and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

Over the weekend, Guam tested over 16 individuals for COVID-19 and all 16 individuals tested negative.

Last April 18, the Department of Public Health and Social Services tested seven individuals for COVID-19 and all tested negative. On April 19 DPHSS tested nine individuals and the results came back negative.

The DPHSS overall count includes cases that were tested by the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego, California, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, and Diagnostic Laboratory Services.

Guam's total number of cases remain at 136 with 112 recoveries and six deaths including a USS *Theodore Roosevelt* sailor.

ROBBERY

From Page 1

lo Rai. After meeting with several store owners, DPS confirmed that the incident did not happen.

"The CNMI Department of Public Safety noticed a certain security footage of a store robbery making its way through online platforms stating that the incident occurred over the weekend on the island of Saipan. This is

false," DPS stated.

Saipan Tribune also reached out to LC Market on Middle Road on Sunday at around 4pm. After speaking with the store's manager, who withheld his name, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the video may not even be from a store on Saipan.

"Police came here to ask us, too, but we are OK. I saw that video on the internet but it's not us. I don't think it's here on Saipan," he said.

ARRIVALS

From Page 1

tion of the last of direct flights from Korea to the Marianas in mid-March.

Meanwhile, visitor arrivals from Japan fell 19% to 1,685 visitors, with lone carrier Skymark Airlines, Inc. ending direct flights on March 25, 2020.

Economic highlights

South Korea issued a "special travel advisory" on March 23, 2020, calling on its citizens to cancel or postpone their trips abroad over the spread of the new coronavirus, the foreign ministry said. The special travel advisory applies to all countries except those that are already under higher alerts that call for withdrawal of citizens or are subject to a travel ban. It is valid for the next four weeks unless it is extended.

Meanwhile, the travel industry is veering ever closer to mass bankruptcy as the coronavirus scare keeps Koreans at home. Even Korea's No. 1 and 2 players, Hana Tour and Mode Tour, now say they could face closures, while many smaller enterprises are already closing up shop. Hana Tour saw the number of bookings last month plummet 84.8% while Mode Tour suffered a 77% decline as tourists shunned package tours to China, Japan and Southeast Asia.

In February 2020, the consumer price index in China went up by 5.2% year on year, while food prices

increased by 21.9%. Chinese airline passenger numbers slumped by 84.5% in February, highlighting the huge economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak. China also tightened outbound and inbound flights, with the Civil Aviation Administration of China announcing each domestic and foreign airline are allowed to operate one route from/to China, with no more than one flight per week. However, a survey by China Tourism Academy and Trip.com released on March 20 shows a domestic tourism rebound is expected to begin soon. If the coronavirus is totally under control, 43% of interviewees said they would travel within the country in the first half of this year, with 16% choosing May, followed by June, July, and August (15% each).

The unemployment rate in Japan climbed to 2.4% in January 2020 from 2.2% in the previous month, amid renewed economic weakness and calls for stimulus to combat declining global growth as the coronavirus outbreak intensifies. Japan National Tourism Organization announced that the number of Japanese overseas travelers was down 14.2% year on year to 1.316,800 in February 2020. The Japan government decided on March 23 to impose entry restrictions on travelers from the United States, including Japanese, after increasing the warning level for the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (PR)

Up to \$750 fine for driving past curfew; DPS belies rumor

Anyone found driving on a public road outside of the curfew hours will be penalized up to \$750. At the same time, the Department of Public Safety clarified yesterday that the rumor that one will be exempted from the curfew rule if you drive with your hazard lights turned on is false.

Under the curfew mandate of the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directive, released by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, no one is allowed to loiter or be in, on, or about any public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, public buildings, amusement and entertainment spots, and vacant lots and

places from 7pm to 6am.

This includes individuals who will be found driving on public roads.

"The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will continue to take proactive steps to protect the health and safety of CNMI residents. ...Because of the work we have done together, our curve remains flat," he said in a recent interview. "By following these guidelines, we can continue to keep our islands safe and protect our *man'amko*, our chronically sick, and our loved ones."

First-time curfew violators will be fined \$200 and second-

time offenders will be fined \$500. Those who will be found violating the third time or more will be subjected to a \$750 fine, and/or will have his or her vehicle impounded by DPS.

Even passengers will be fined. Each passenger in a vehicle found driving on a public road outside of the curfew hours will be fined \$100 for a first-time offense, \$200 for a second-time offense, and \$300 for a third-time or more offense.

Law enforcement officers, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, and first responders

on-duty, as well as those who are lawfully-employed during the curfew hours, and are driving to or from their workplace, are exempt from the fines.

Those going to or returning from admission to the hospital or completion of medical treatment such as hemodialysis are also exempt.

DPS is also reminding everyone to carry their credentials when driving. On-the-spot verifications will be conducted for individuals found on the road during the implemented curfew hours.

DPS also said yesterday that it has noticed an increase in the

display of vehicle hazards during the 7pm through 6am curfew. When stopped, the drivers would say that they were "told" by friends and family members that they would not be pulled over if they turned on their vehicle's hazard lights while driving during curfew hours. This is false, DPS said.

The use of hazards during the curfew hours does not deem the operator exempt from the mandatory traffic stop. The mandatory traffic stop is conducted to adhere to the curfew mandate and to verify that only first responders, medical workers, law enforcement officers, and private sector employees on duty are heading to or from work. **(Iva Maurin)**

Contractor asks court to compel IPI to reimburse \$25K in attorney fees

Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, a former contractor of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, has asked the federal court to compel IPI to reimburse the company \$25,000 in attorneys' fees.



Thompson

Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, said the fees are in connection with U.S.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's recent order granting summary judgment in favor of the company and against IPI.

Thompson said Manglona found undisputed evidence that IPI defaulted on Nov. 15, 2018 when it failed to pay the full amount owed Pacific Rim.

He said the total interest accrued as of April 16, 2020, is \$457,481, while the principal owed on the promissory note is \$6,383,462. The lawyer said the total due on the promissory note for interest and principal is \$6,840,944 as of April 16, 2020.

At a hearing last April 2, Manglona denied IPI's motion to dismiss Pacific Rim's lawsuit and granted Pacific Rim's motion for summary judgment on its claim for breach of promissory note. The judge ordered Thompson to submit a proposal on the fees and interest that IPI is liable to pay.

IPI counsel Joseph Horey was ordered to respond by

April 23.

Manglona also stated that she has reconsidered the submission of a certified question with respect to the mechanic's lien issue and instead will issue an order on Pacific Rim's lien application.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract

(construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment and alleged non-payment of \$5.65 million in construction services.

Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed its construction work on Sept. 30, 2018, that the unpaid amount that is owed Pacific Rim is \$5.65 million but it wants to collect from IPI approximately \$10 million in damages that would be proven at trial.

Pacific Rim also filed an application for a mechanic's lien on IPI's hotel-casino project and on the land that it sits on. A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

In IPI's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, Horey asserted that there was no mediation yet prior to the filing of the suit and therefore the federal court should dismiss the case.

(Ferdie De La Torre)

Jurisdiction over probationer in identity theft case is transferred to district court

The Southern District of Texas has transferred the jurisdiction to the U.S. District Court for the Districts of Guam and the NMI the case of a man who was convicted in Texas for aggravated identity theft and is now on probation.

Ronnie Sanchez pleaded guilty in June 2019 before the Southern District of Texas and was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay \$3,260 in restitution and \$100 in court assessment fee, according to records filed last Thursday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Sanchez's probation started last Nov. 15 and will end on Nov. 4, 2020.

According to the indictment, from Oct. 28, 2016 until

Nov. 4, 2016, in the Corpus Christi Division of the Southern District of Texas, Sanchez bought \$1,000 worth of items using an illegally obtained debit and credit cards.

In March 2019, federal prosecutors petitioned the District of Guam for Sanchez's removal to Texas. At that time, Sanchez was charged in Guam in connection with nine burglaries.

It is not clear whether he is the same Ronnie Sanchez that the NMI Crime Stoppers Program had been looking for in 2017 after Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an arrest warrant against him on Jan. 11, 2017, for theft charges. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



The CNMI Board of Education and the Public School System joins all stakeholders of public education and the people of the commonwealth in mourning the passing of



Abed E. Younis,
founder of Marianas Variety.

Abed E. Younis unbendable resolve led to the development of the Fourth Estate in the Pacific region, and helped in the growth and maturation of the commonwealth that embraces free expression, free speech and a free press.

Long before the onset of the internet, Abed E. Younis afforded our commonwealth and our people a platform – through Marianas Variety – in showcasing our social, cultural and economic developments to the outside world.

For nearly half a century, Abed E. Younis has been a leading light in the promotion of local capacity, among others, inspiring a generation of homegrown journalists, media practitioners, public relations experts, and communication experts.

The CNMI Board of Education and the Public School System conveys its most profound appreciation to the late Abed E. Younis for his most valuable contributions: his love for the arts and his vision of a free society that espouses a balanced, fearless and independent Fourth Estate that our island community continue to rely upon.

OVR continues to provide services during pandemic

To help ensure the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation continues to provide access for individuals seeking VR services during the COVID-19 pandemic, it established the following process in order to continue to provide orientations/intakes.

Individuals needing to apply for OVR services are encouraged to reach out to OVR via phone at 322-6537/38 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 1pm, or at 287-6538/48 and via email at maryann@ovrgov.net.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OVR offices are currently closed to the public. If you have access to the internet and would like more information, visit www.ovrgov.net to view OVR requirements. If you do not have access to the internet, contact the OVR office and they will mail you an information/ referral/orientation packet.

After determining how to best provide you with an orientation to OVR services, you will then be scheduled for a telephone/virtual-orientation/pre-assessment with a VR counselor. During your orientation/pre-assessment meet-

ing, you will be informed of the current status of how services are being delivered. In light of so many changes in our islands and communities, we will remain flexible and creative when it comes to service delivery. We will determine how to best communicate with you going forward, whether that is through phone, email, or mail. We are encouraging that consumers who have smartphones download WhatsApp. WhatsApp is essentially a communication medium that allows for encryption on all messages sent. WhatsApp will also be used to share any important pandemic updates as well as communications from staff. If you are unable to email or message documents and you need to drop off documents, OVR staff will provide you with the procedure for drop offs. If you choose to apply for services, you will need to fill out paperwork, which we can send to you through email or mail. You will be asked who your providers are so we can send you Releases of Information to sign in order to get information about your disability. Once you get the pack-

et of paperwork, please call us so we can go over it with you to address any questions or concerns. You can return the paperwork in whatever way works best for you (mail, email, drop-off). If additional paperwork is needed (such as guardianship paperwork), we may ask you to provide us with the originals, which we will immediately return once copies are made. You might be able to take pictures of paperwork and send things to us that way too. Once we get your paperwork back, it will be date stamped and you will then be scheduled for a full intake interview.

During the intake, we will gather information about you, your disability, and your goals. The OVR staff person will tell you about any limitations of services during the COVID-19 pandemic, plus any limitations to our assessment activities. Any additional documentation that is determined to be needed at the time of the intake may require a physical hand off. If it is unavoidable, OVR staff will practice social distancing to the maximum extent possible.

OVR has 60 days from the

date of your application to determine eligibility, however due to COVID-19, some hospitals and provider offices have temporarily closed their records departments. If we are having a hard time getting your records, we will let you know if eligibility might take longer. If you have a parent or guardian that helps you make decisions, please make sure you let us know so we can all be involved in the above process together!

Current OVR consumers

Current consumers who have not been contacted by their assigned OVR staff person can contact the office by phone at 287-6548 or 287-6538, or email at maryann@ovrgov.net, or they can call the office main phone line on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 1pm at 322- 6537/38, with any questions or concerns. Members of the public seeking disability employment resources or information about OVR services may visit the OVR website (www.ovrgov.net). Again, we are encouraging that consumers who have smartphones to download WhatsApp.

It will also be used to share

any important pandemic updates as well as communications from staff.

We also continue to encourage employers to review the recent U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission bulletin on steps employers should take related to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act in response to COVID-19. OVR will be working with the CNMI Department of Labor-WIOA regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, to ensure consumers receive necessary information to avail

of needed services. OVR will work with consumers needing assistance with the PUA program. As recommended by the CNMI-DOL, prepare your documents if you plan on applying for the PUA program (certification letter from employer, a valid photo ID, latest pay stubs and Social Security number). The certification letter must state the employee's name, title, wages, and schedule of the regular working hours, and the number of reduces hours, before the layoff or termination. OVR will provide additional details as soon as they are available. (PR)

Matson donations in Guam and Micronesia total \$280K in 2019

GUAM—Matson contributed a total of \$3.7 million in cash and in-kind donations to 960 charitable organizations and nonprofit programs in the communities it serves during 2019, including \$247,000 in support for 53 organizations in Guam and Micronesia.

Cash contributions to Guam organizations, including funds directed by employees through the company's matching gift programs, totaled more than \$163,000 in 2019, while the value of donated services and equipment added up to more than \$83,000.

In addition, 25 different nonprofit organizations participated in Matson's Adahi I Tano' environmental program in 2019, and each "took care of the land" while Matson took care of related disposal expenses. Adahi I Tano' contributed an additional \$25,000 to the Guam community.

"As a lifeline service provider for more than a century, Matson is deeply invested in the welfare of the communities we serve," said Matt Cox, chairman and CEO. "This year, with the unprecedented effects of the pandemic being felt by families everywhere, Matson is focusing its resources on addressing our communities' most pressing needs."

Some of Matson's larger cash contributions in the region last year included the final \$10,000 on a five-year \$50,000 commitment paid to University of Guam, Guam Community College, Palau Community College, College of Micronesia, and Northern Marianas College, providing scholarships at each of these institutions in recognition of Matson's 20 years of service to Guam/CNMI. Other donations of \$10,000 went to the Guam National Olympic Committee and the Coast Guard Marianas Chief Petty Offi-

cer Association, providing assistance during the federal government shutdown. Matson also gave \$5,000 each to the USO Guam and Joeten & Daidai Foundation and \$3,000 each to the American Red Cross Guam to support disaster preparedness programs and to Special Olympics Guam in support of its year-round programs and annual games event.

Bernie Valencia, Matson's vice president and general manager for Guam and Micronesia, said, "Matson considers itself a lifeline to Guam, Saipan, and Micronesia, and we take that responsibility seriously. In addition to being a dependable supply chain provider, Matson is committed to supporting local organizations, which we believe helps to improve the quality of life for all of us."

Unlike 2018, when well over \$125,000 of in-kind support was dedicated to disaster relief in the wake of typhoons, in 2019, Matson's in-kind contributions benefited recreation (Guam National Tennis Federation, roughly \$30,000) and education (Yap Catholic High School, close to \$20,000). Matson also donated \$18,000 of shipping for medical equipment and library books from Hawaii to Saipan, Chuuk and Majuro.

Matson focuses its community support on local programs providing vital health care and human services; youth development, recreation; disaster preparedness and recovery; education; cultural and environmental preservation; the arts; agriculture and nutrition; and maritime safety.

Detailed information on Matson's community support activities in 2019 is available in *Manifest*, Matson's annual giving report posted online at: <https://www.matson.com/community/index.html>. (PR)



RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

With the participation of its member organizations, the United Filipino Organizations distributed relief goods to some families, starting last Good Friday. To date, a total of 100 bags of 20-lb rice, 200 bags of 10-lbs rice, and 200 packs of assorted canned goods have been distributed. UFO president Marcelo V. Masilungan assured that the distribution followed safe distancing protocol. "We would like to thank our business partners, Karidat Social Services and LBC Express (Saipan), for their continued support to the UFO in bringing help to the community," he said.

UFO

Cannabis commission, DETF encourage responsible use

To ensure the continued safety of the public, the CNMI Cannabis Commission is partnering with the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force, composed of officers from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections and the Division of Customs Services, to remind recreational cannabis users who are 21 years of age or older to consume responsibly and to utilize sober transportation.

“As our community continues to take the necessary precautions to combat against COVID-19, the commission would like to remind the public that cannabis laws are still in effect and we encourage our community to familiarize themselves with the law as well as the proposed rules and regulations,” said CNMI Cannabis Commission managing director Monique B. Sablan. “We are grateful for the partnership with the local Drug Enforcement Task Force as they continue to assist us with enforcing safe, smart, and responsible usage of marijuana items by recreational users 21 years of age and older.”

Pursuant to the CNMI Cannabis Act, persons who are 21 years of age or older or medical marijuana patients are authorized to produce, process, keep, or store homegrown marijuana at their household or cultivation site. It is the responsibility of all recreational users to familiarize themselves with the restrictions for cultivating and consuming homegrown marijuana sensibly in the Commonwealth.

The absence of the homegrown marijuana registry system does not prohibit any person 21 years of age or older from cultivation of homegrown marijuana, as long as marijuana is cultivated in accordance with the guidelines defined in the Cannabis Act and the person obtains a homegrown marijuana registry card when made available by the commission.

The commission would like to remind the public of a few of the highlighted restrictions established in CNMI Public Law 20-66 as amended in Public Law 21-05 to ensure overall public safety and responsible use. Restrictions include, but are not limited to, the following:

HOMEGROWN MARIJUANA:

■ A person may not sell homegrown marijuana or plants, marijuana products, or marijuana items. Homegrown marijuana is for personal use and is non-commercial.

■ Homegrown marijuana plants must be cultivated in a location where the plants are not subject to public view

without the use of binoculars, aircrafts, or other optical aids.

■ A person cultivating homegrown marijuana must take reasonable precautions to ensure the plants are secure from unauthorized access and access by persons under 21 years of age.

■ Homegrown marijuana cultivation may only occur on property lawfully in possession, either by appropriate lease or actual ownership of the cultivator or with the consent of the person in lawful possession of the property.

PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE:

■ It is unlawful for a person under the age of 21 to possess, purchase, attempt to purchase, consume, accept as a gift, or sell a marijuana item.

■ It is unlawful for any person to smoke marijuana in the presence of a person under 21 years of age and unlawful for a person to allow persons under 21 years of age to consume marijuana on their property.

RECREATIONAL USERS:

■ It is unlawful for any per-

son 21 years of age or older knowingly or intentionally to possess:

□ More than 1 ounce of marijuana in a public place.

□ More than 8 ounces of usable marijuana at a household.

□ More than 16 ounces of solid marijuana products.

□ More than 72 ounces of liquid marijuana products.

□ More than 5 grams of marijuana extracts.

□ More than 6 mature marijuana plants.

□ More than 12 immature marijuana plants.

■ A person may not import marijuana items into the Commonwealth or export marijuana items from the Commonwealth.

■ It is unlawful for any person to engage in the use, display, or exhibit of marijuana items in a public place or public property or in the presence of a person under 21 years of age.

□ A “public place” or “public property” means a place to which the general public has access and includes, but is not limited to, beaches,

DPS: False report of store robbery on Saipan

The CNMI Department of Public Safety has belied reports of a store robbery that reportedly occurred over the weekend on Saipan, which was reportedly caught on security video that was being circulated online.

In a statement yesterday, DPS said there were no reports of such a store robbery over the weekend. DPS officers were dispatched to check

on all stores and to follow up if this incident took place. Officers met with store owners who assured the department that the incident did not occur in their stores.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety would like to remind the public to only share official and accurate information of verified notices, press releases, and advisories from official sources. (PR)

hallways, lobbies, and other parts of apartment houses and hotels not constituting rooms or apartments designed for actual residence, and highways, streets, schools, places of amusement, parks, playgrounds, and premises used in connection with public transportation or any property owned by the CNMI or Department of Public Lands.

■ It is unlawful for any person to engage in the use of marijuana or to possess marijuana in “marijuana-free zones”: any government building, any school or school property, whether public or private, Northern Marianas College with exceptions for research as may be permitted by NMC., any business establishments licensed to serve alcohol., and any federal building.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE:

■ Marijuana impairs the ability to drive by affecting your coordination, attention, judgement, reaction time, and decision-making skills. In addition to existing CNMI DUI laws, consuming or use of marijuana while operating motorized vehicles on public roads is illegal, punishable by fines up to \$500 and/or suspension of their driver’s license up to 6 months for the first offense. A second or subsequent offense is punishable by fines up to \$1,000, suspension of their driver’s license up to 1 year or both.

While abiding by the executive directives issued by the administration and the COVID-19 Task Force, the commission is work-

ing diligently to ensure the swift implementation of the commercial rules and regulations with the anticipated reopening of government offices to the public. Commercial applications are currently undergoing legal sufficiency review and will be made available along with more educational material upon the launching of the cnmicannabis.org website.


The commission encourages the public to familiarize themselves with the Public Law 20-66, Public Law 21-05, and the cannabis rules and regulations, which can be found in the *Commonwealth Registry* Volume 42 No. 3. On the CNMI Law Revision official website (cnmilaw.org).

For any questions or inquiries, email media@cnmicannabis.org. (PR)

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/FACILITIES-002
NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 29, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM
“SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF A 25-TON
AIR-CONDITIONING IN THE OXYGEN GENERATING ROOM”
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO RFP'S TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
***MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ON APRIL 8, 2020**
@ 9:00 A.M. SAIPAN TIME @ THE CHCC FACILITY/MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S





We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

BUILDING MAINTENANCE
High School diploma. No more than 24 months of work experience. Official apprenticeship preferred.
CLOSING DATE: April 21, 2020


OPERATIONS ASSISTANT MANAGER
Bachelor's Degree is required. Minimum three (3) years of hotel/resort experience and knowledge and managerial experience is expected. Able to work weekends, holiday, increment weather conditions and graveyard shifts.
CLOSING DATE: April 22, 2020

RESTAURANT MANAGER
High School/GED is required. At least 12 months' experience, must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holiday. Knowledgeable in banquet set up budgeting, compliance and policies. Able to stand long period of time, lift push over 30 pounds.
CLOSING DATE: April 22, 2020

(2) CLUBMATE
Must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test). Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills. Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates. Must be able to write, read, and speak fluently in Chinese and English. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends, and holidays.
CLOSING DATE: April 24, 2020

ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE MANAGER
Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. Must possess technical knowledge and proficiency on 3512 Caterpillar Generators, 85 Kw Aqua Design Desalination Plants, Chiller Systems, Pumps, Filtration Systems for swimming pools And Reverse Osmosis Systems are required. Must be a Certified Reverse Osmosis (Ro) Technician in Water Treatment and distribution. Must have a thorough knowledge and experience in handling Diesel Plant and Reverse Osmosis Operations. Must be knowledgeable in Microsoft word and excel. Possess basic math skills. Previous experience in management of hotel maintenance/engineering is preferred. Must be able to work under a flexible work schedule including early morning hours, evenings, weekends and holidays.
CLOSING DATE: April 24, 2020

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, April 24th, 2020.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE**
USED OUTBOARD MOTORS
CPA-PAN-001-20

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) will sell at Public Auction, May 05, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. 2 units' outboard motors located at the CPA Building, Port of Saipan.

Brand: Mercury
Horse Power: 90

A minimum bid is set at \$1,000.00. The motors are sold “As Is” and “Where Is” and without Warranty. The successful bidder is required to pay 20% down payment at CPA Seaport Office on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at the CPA Accounting Office, Saipan International Airport within 5 calendar days from auction closing date. The outboard motors will be released to the buyer upon full payment of the bid amount. Failure to pay in full will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment shall be in cash, cashier's check, or money order payable to CPA.

CPA assumes no responsibility for any costs incurred by bidder's in their preparation of the bids.

Inquiries and inspection may be directed to the Procurement Officer, Mr. Alex C. Tudela, at telephone number 237-6563 or 483-6501.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Navy troubles: A fighting force shouldn't be mired in politics

The United States Navy is dysfunctional, with a failure of command from the top down. Instead of projecting an image of the most potent fleet in the world, the Navy has run aground in a mire of bad decisions and foolish chest-thumping by civilian and military leaders.

The fate of Capt. Brett Crozier, the former commander of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, displays a disconnect between Navy leadership and sailors. The fate of the crew shows leadership didn't care about the growing COVID-19 spread aboard the ship until the press publicized their plight.

Capt. Crozier deserves an investigation conducted by an independent monitor to determine whether his removal from command was justified.

Officers do not get command of carriers by mistake. Capt. Crozier was well-vetted and proven in service before he was given command of the USS Theodore Roosevelt. His crew knew that he was competent and cared about the welfare of his men and women in uniform.

Capt. Crozier was frustrated as the virus began to spread among his crew. He went to the chain of command, got little response and then issued an email to other officers warning them of the situation.

That letter was leaked to the press.

Without evidence, then Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly accused Capt. Crozier of leaking the email. Rather than wait for an internal Navy investigation, he removed Capt. Crozier from command. As the captain left his ship, his sailors gave him a tremendous ovation while chanting his name. Capt. Crozier also left with something else—he was infected with COVID-19.

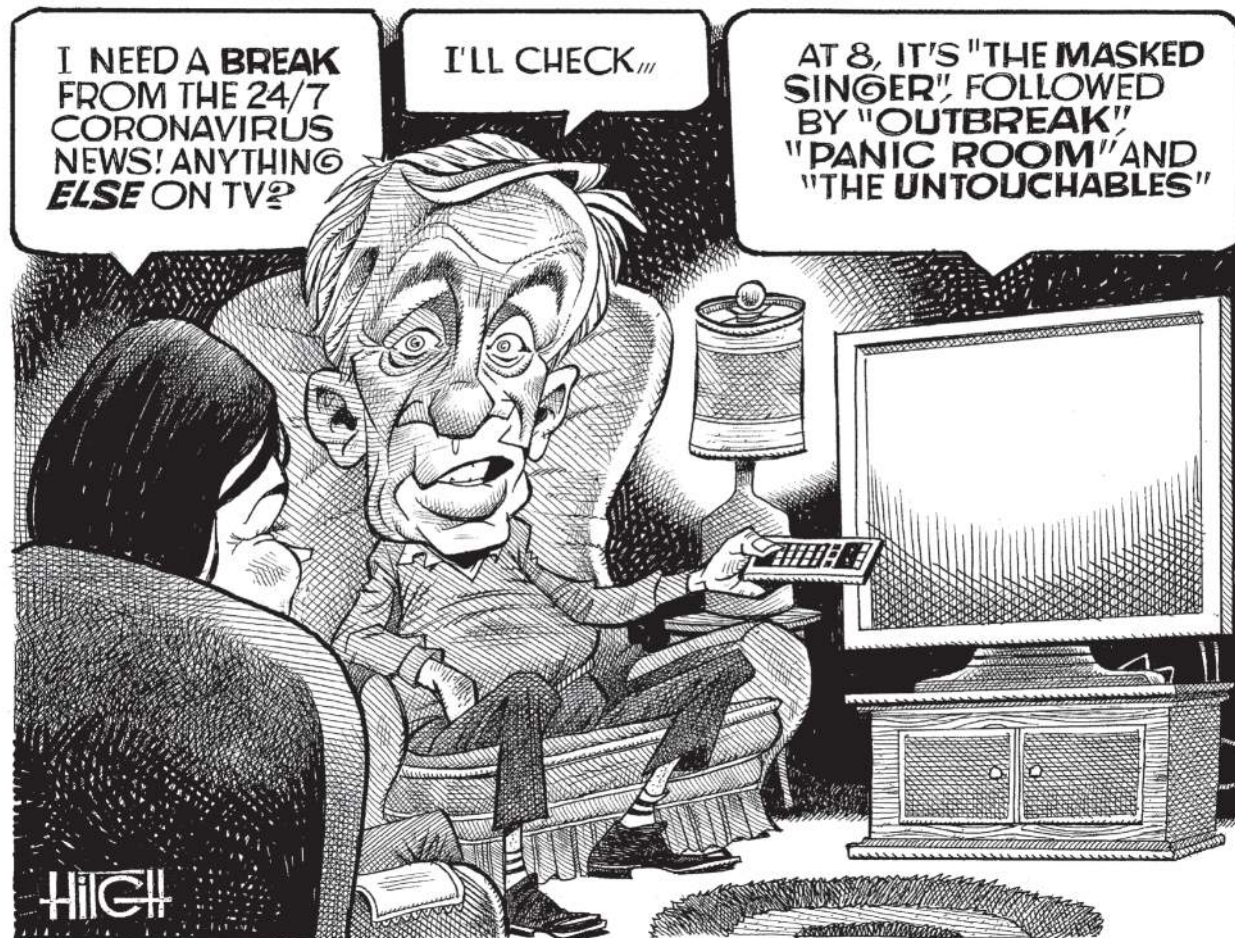
Modly then proved that he was the man unfit for command. He visited the ship—criticized the sailors for their send-off to the former commander and launched into Capt. Crozier in a profanity-riddled tirade.

The former commander, said Modly, was “too naive or too stupid” to command. Those remarks destroyed any confidence most sailors had in the acting secretary and he resigned within days. Defense Secretary Mark Esper did not force Modly to resign, most reports said. He should have.

The evacuation of sailors, which Capt. Crozier begged for, had begun by then—but the infections had mounted. Almost 300 of the ship's sailors were testing positive by the time Modly resigned. At least one sailor has died.

If, as some say, Capt. Crozier violated communication rules by using a non-encrypted channel for his communications, there was a way to properly resolve that question. That was via the usual internal investigation by naval of-

See NAVY on Next Page



Our coronavirus solidarity is mostly a myth

I don't know any Republicans eager to catch COVID-19. And I don't know any Democrats who want to remain housebound and worried about their next paycheck a day longer than they have to.

So how did a pandemic that has upended every household become such a partisan issue? And how will Republican elected officials arguing for a swift end to the restrictions that have closed most businesses and dramatically limited most Americans' mobility fare in the long run against Democrats urging a more cautious return to business as usual?

“We're in this together,” elected leaders from both parties tell us ad nauseam. But that's mostly a lie.

The fault lines that divided us when this nightmare began—fault lines that have long quarantined Americans by geography, by class, by political party and by race—persist, and in many ways the pandemic has sharpened them.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's decision to order a state-wide lockdown abruptly altered a stalemate with Republican lawmakers that had seemed likely to preserve the mildly dysfunctional status quo until the November election. After being reduced to spectator status for most of March, state Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and House Speaker Lee Chatfield seized the offensive last week, warning that the Democratic governor was unleashing a new economic plague that could eclipse the dreaded virus.

“Under the guise of protecting our health she is DESTROYING our HEALTH by killing our livelihoods,” Shirkey asserted in a Good Friday Facebook post that had disappeared by Easter morning. In a slightly more measured social media campaign, Shirkey and other state GOP lawmakers circulated the governor's telephone number and urged Michiganders to demand that businesses be allowed to reopen immediately.

‘Lock her up!’

The protesters who paralyzed the state capital Wednesday in a honking, social distance-flouting display of contempt for Whitmer's stay-at-home order went considerably beyond the Republican Party line. Shirkey and his GOP colleagues presumably do not endorse the conspicuous display of confederate flags, the chants demanding Whitmer's impeachment and/or imprisonment, or one protestor's broadcast speculation that the virus had been “created” by the same “corporates” who stand to make a profit from widespread testing.

But Republicans in the Michigan House of Representatives embraced the mostly white, mostly out-of-state protesters' uni-

By **BRIAN DICKERSON**
Detroit Free Press

Brian Dickerson is the editorial page editor of the Detroit Free Press. Contact him at bdickerson@freepress.com.



fyng cause when they issued a press release urging Whitmer to relax commercial restrictions on businesses and residents outside southeast Michigan, “since different regions of the state are experiencing varying levels of exposure.” If you listened carefully, you could hear the baritone echo of the late L. Brooks Patterson, who once ventured that Michiganders could treat Detroit like “an Indian reservation, where we herd all the Indians into the city, build a fence around it, and then throw in the blankets and corn.”

So how has a virus that ignores our political differences come to reinforce those differences? Liberals say the die was cast back in February, when President Donald Trump pooh-poohed the danger that dismissed any significant number of Americans would contract the virus and ridiculed Democrats for exaggerating the threat.

But that was six weeks ago, practically another geologic age in a season when new political narratives are hurled into the air like skeet, blown to bits in a fusillade of fact-checking and reassembled, often in radically altered form, in the span of a single news cycle. By the end of March, the ubiquitous b-roll of freezer trucks being loaded with corpses had rendered the toothless-tiger narrative untenable, and social distancing became, however grudgingly, our common creed. It's easier to believe we are one nation, it seems, when we rarely talk to one another face to face.

Town and Country

Wishful thinkers of all generations predicted the pandemic would unite us, invoking the spirit of 9/11 or, if their memories were longer, Pearl Harbor. But we were fighting the virus on different fronts, and it was only a matter of time before political opportunists began to insist that we were fighting different wars, and for different causes.

In Michigan's cities, the enemy is the disease, and even death itself. In the blink of an eye, most Detroiters knew a half-dozen

See CORONAVIRUS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Planning for the inevitable: Living wills and more

Imagine you are biking down Beach Road. And then crunch. A car smacks into you because the driver was too busy looking at the otherworldly sunset. An ambulance races to the scene, and then transports you to the hospital. You're unconscious and on death's door. What kind of treatment will you get? What happens if you fall into a coma with little hope of waking up? And who decides?

If you've prepared ahead of time then these decisions—and more—have been made through either a living will, medical power of attorney, or both. If you haven't prepared though, then expect a host of costs, delays, and frustration for you and your loved ones.

Let's start with a living will. It should not be confused with your will (i.e., your last will and testament) or a living trust. Like a will or a living trust, a living will is a legal document. But they do different things. Wills and living trusts are primarily about transferring property after you die. A living will, by contrast, has nothing to do with who gets your stuff. And it has no impact on what happens after you die.

Instead, a living will is all about medical treatment when you are near death. That is, it instructs your doctors and loved ones about what you want—and don't want—them to do to prolong your life if you can't tell them. It comes into play, for example, if you are unconscious from an accident or under anesthesia from surgery.

Common topics in a living will include telling your doctors whether you want to be resuscitated and what to do if you can no longer feed yourself or breathe without the help of machines. Do you want them to keep these treatments up in hopes that you pull

through? Or do you want them to pull the tubes and let nature take its course?

In other words, a living will is about terminal situations. It's not about refusing life-saving treatment if there's a genuine hope of recovery. So, don't worry: Creating a living will won't stop you from getting life-saving treatment; it will only address how to handle situations where you're unlikely to ever get better.

Putting these decisions into writing is good for you and your family. It's good for you because you make the decision. And it's good for your family for the same reason. They don't have to choose whether to let mom or dad die. The living will picks for them. And that eliminates a potential flashpoint for family conflict between those who want to end your pain and suffering versus those who want the hospital to do everything it can to help you cling to life.

But while a living will is invaluable, it's also limited. It generally only applies when you are near death, in a coma, or in a persistent vegetative state. Those are important moments to be sure. But they are hardly the only scenarios that need to be addressed. What happens, for instance, if you have a stroke, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or Parkinson's disease? In these cases, you may live for years but not be able to consistently or reliably express your wishes.

Enter the medical power of attorney (also known as the health care proxy or a health care power of attorney). This document appoints someone to make medical decisions for you if you become disabled, incapacitated, or incompetent but are not at death's door.

Selecting the right health care agent is essential. They should live nearby, know you well, and have the competency to make smart medical decisions. They should also be strong enough to withstand pressure from doctors and family members. And, ideally, you should list three people—the primary person and two successors just in case someone is not able or willing to serve.

Because a living will and a medical power of attorney apply

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

to different scenarios, people normally opt to create both documents. If you follow this well-worn path, be careful: Your instructions should be consistent. If your living will declares one thing and your medical power of attorney says another, you're sowing unnecessary confusion during an emergency. In these cases, expect the instructions written in your living will to win.

Once you've created these documents, don't be stingy. Give copies to relevant people. At a minimum, provide copies to your doctors, hospital, family members, and health care agent. It's important that people have ready access to these documents before anything happens to you.

If you'd like to learn more about living wills, medical power of attorneys, and other ways to plan for the inevitable bumps in the road, make an appointment with a knowledgeable estate-planning attorney. You'll be doing yourself and your loved ones a favor.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

NAVY

From Page 8

ficers trained for that work.

This isn't the first blow to the Navy in recent memory. President Donald Trump himself overrode Navy disciplinary decisions in the case of Navy SEAL Edward Gallagher, who was accused of war crimes. While it is true that the president is the commander in chief and had the right to intervene in the case, it was the wrong move. Like the Crozier case, it smashed morale. SEALs who did the right thing and reported Gallagher's actions felt betrayed.

The president also fired then Navy Secretary Richard Spencer, who had defended the Navy's handling of the Gallagher matter.

The United States Navy should not be subject to political interference. The civilian leadership should intervene only in the most extraordinary cases. Neither Capt. Crozier nor Gallagher's case rose to that level.

The damage to morale and to the normal course of the military justice system is incalculable. The Navy is a fighting force, not a football for politicians and civilian leaders who slam a captain for doing right by his crew.

The Navy must be on the high seas protecting American security, not mired in the mud of political battles.

(c) 2020 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

CORONAVIRUS

From Page 8

acquaintances who had contracted the virus and at least a few who had succumbed to it.

But in more sparsely populated regions, coronavirus has so far remained relatively rare, and seemed far less threatening than the economic paralysis enveloping the state.

Whitmer and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan have aggressively shared data documenting the pandemic's disproportionate toll on Detroiters. But their reports, intended to acknowledge the African American community's particular vulnerability, have reinforced the misconception that those outside that community enjoy some immunity conferred by race, generously sized lots and rural virtue. The hardships imposed by commercial restrictions and social distancing mandates meant to protect their own health conform neatly to the narrative that they are being conscripted to fight the city's war.

So even the recognition that we are confronting a challenge unprecedented in our lifetimes has failed, so far, to overcome our tribal instincts. With all our worlds turned upside down, we are retreating to our familiar corners. The water may still be rising, but we're far from ready to acknowledge we're in the same boat, much less row in the same direction.

Capt. Crozier should be commended, not censured for his actions on the USS *Roosevelt*

One of the most challenging jobs in the United States Navy is command at sea. This single officer orchestrates often thousands of crew members to work in concert and complete complex daily missions while under crisis to protect America's national security.

Anyone in this position must possess exceptional leadership qualities, virtue and courage. As our nation faces unprecedented and frightening times, one would hope these traits would be lauded by our nation's leaders, but this honor was wrongly denied to Capt. Brett Crozier.

On April 1, Capt. Crozier was relieved of his duties for not following protocol when he penned a letter to senior military officials requesting permission to disembark his entire crew in Guam. Three officers on Crozier's ship, the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, had tested positive for COVID-19 two weeks after a stop in Vietnam. President Donald Trump publicly criticized the letter.

Anyone who has served on a ship knows maintaining a 6-foot social distance is a physical impossibility. Predictably, the virus spread like wildfire. Soon, over 100 sailors tested positive and Crozier requested the crew be allowed to quarantine on land. It was reported Crozier's letter bypassed his chain of command and used an unclassified system to sound the alarm concerning the well-being of his crew — which he knew was in urgent danger.

Abiding by protocol is part of our culture in the Navy. It is drilled into our heads and expected from us on day one. But the true test of exceptional leadership is knowing when and how to divert from protocol, when that trusted protocol all of a sudden puts your crew in danger.

The U.S. services oath of office provides officers the latitude to apply judgment to the orders that they are to execute. Young naval officers are trained to believe that we have license to draw attention to important issues. And it is our duty to ensure our nation is operating at maximum effectiveness for war or other service. No factor determines effectiveness more than the state of a commander's personnel.

To relieve Capt. Crozier of his duties for faithfully executing his oath of office, and to do so for a "loss of confidence," is inconsistent with our values, and could have a chilling effect on the

By **D'JUAN WILCHER**

Chicago Tribune



D'Juan Wilcher is a U.S. Navy reservist and former naval surface warfare officer. He is a member of the Truman National Security Project and serves as a regional director at the Travis Manion Foundation.

trust sailors have in leadership, and conversely, breed risk-averse officers. Faithful execution of the oath of office and career promotion potential should not be mutually exclusive.

Days after his dismissal, Capt. Crozier tested positive for the coronavirus, nearly 600 other sailors contracted the virus and one of his crew members has died.

Great naval heroes such as Sen. John McCain, Adm. William "Bull" Halsey and Adm. Chester Nimitz all behaved similarly to Capt. Crozier during parts of their career. Should we have fired them too? Although the Navy does not publicly ascribe to a zero-defect mentality, our culture has evolved to be exactly that. The unfortunate example of Capt. Crozier should force the Navy to decide what type of leaders it wishes to breed.

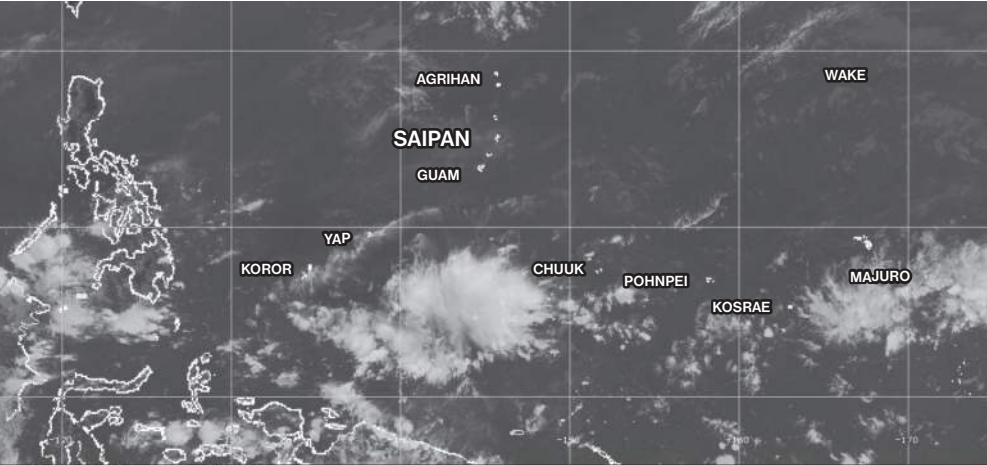
I am professionally disappointed, and frankly, embarrassed by the decision to relieve Capt. Crozier for his selfless action. The decision seemed shortsighted and could negatively impact recruiting.

In the book "Command at Sea," Adm. James Stavridis wrote, "In each ship there is one man alone who in the hour of emergency or peril at sea can turn to no other man. There is one man alone who is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer; He is the ship." I was proud to see how Capt. Crozier's crew supported him as he crossed the brow for the last time.

Capt. Crozier gave a master class in what it means to be a servant leader.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
89°	77°	89°	76°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:44 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry season weather pattern will persist across the Marianas through the week. Models show deep layer moisture remaining relatively low for most of the time. The exception will come from a few weak disturbances which may cause brief periods of clouds and showers. One such disturbance could be found east of the Marianas this morning. Projecting the motion of the disturbance indicates increasing clouds today with mostly cloudy skies tonight. Despite the clouds only isolated showers are expected as deep layer moisture will remain relatively low. Winds of 10 to 15 mph are expected today and tonight increasing slightly Tuesday. Models hint at another disturbance possible the second half of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 16, 2020



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

- Cashier & Customer Service**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4282
Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free 1-(855)-729-2282



Department of Public Works

- Solid Waste Management Division**
 - Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill**
Open all week except Wednesday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2745



Department of Finance

- Division of Revenue & Taxation**
CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-1000
- Division of Customs Services**
 - Airport:** OPEN DAILY
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 - Seaport:** Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 - Chalan Kanoa Post Office:**
Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Department of Public Lands

- CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54



Saipan Zoning Office

- Available via phone only
Monday - Thursday
7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp
Call or email for more information



CNMI State Medicaid Agency

- Eligibility staff via phone only
Tuesday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

- Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
Email: maryann@ovrgov.net



Office of the Attorney General

- Civil & Criminal Divisions**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600



Office of the Public Defender

- Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-6503

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:52 AM	5:09 PM	-
Wednesday	5:27 AM	5:55 PM	-
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM	-
Friday	6:39 AM	7:30 PM	-
Saturday	7:19 AM	8:21 PM	-

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AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 57°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	61° / 39°	
Hong Kong	Showers	77° / 70°	
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 70°	
London	Mostly Sunny	63° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 57°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 74°	
New York	Showers	61° / 36°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°	
Busan	Windy	59° / 43°	
Rome	Showers	66° / 55°	
Salem	Sunny	78° / 49°	
San Francisco	Windy	60° / 51°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	50° / 37°	
Tokyo	Showers	63° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Showers	68° / 39°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:44 AM	LOW TIDE	0.54	
6:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81	
1:21 PM	LOW TIDE	0.54	
7:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73	

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 16, 2020



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475
- Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call**
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**
For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)**
For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions. Grant Guidelines are available at <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org>
Tel.: (670) 287-4585
Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- Historic Preservation Office (HPO)**
For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
Tel: (670) 789-1986
Email: rchong.cnmihipo@gmail.com



Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Application Submission:
Anytime via Drop-Box

Application Inquiries:
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
Email: support@cnminap.gov.mp

Business

IN CASHING ANY CARES ACT STIMULUS CHECKS

FHB will waive fees for non-customers

GUAM—First Hawaiian Bank announced it will cash any CARES Act stimulus check with no fees assessed, whether the bearer is an FHB customer or not. The federal government has stated that in late April it will begin mailing paper checks to qualifying U.S. citizens who filed tax returns in 2018 or 2019.

Many within our community do not have banking relationships that enable them to quickly and inexpensively cash these checks, and these people often are the most vulnerable and most likely to be affected by recent job losses. FHB's goal is to help get this money into people's hands as quickly and easily as possible.

"We want to help all residents avoid fees that may be charged by other check cashing services and gain access to this much-needed cash as soon as possible" said Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian Bank chairman, president, and CEO. "That's why we are waiving all fees associated with cashing this stimulus check, whether

they are a First Hawaiian Bank customer or not. It's just the right thing to do."

Individuals who receive a CARES Act stimulus check can cash it any available First Hawaiian Bank Branch during regular business hours. FHB Customers may also deposit their check using an FHB ATM and deposit remotely through FHB Mobile.

For questions regarding the CARES Act and any of its programs, please contact your banker to see how you can benefit.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.FHB.com) was founded in 1858 as Bishop & Co., and is Hawaii's largest bank offering consumer and business customers a comprehensive suite of financial services, including online and mobile banking services, deposits, lending, merchant services, wealth management, insurance and credit cards. The bank has 53 branch locations in Hawaii, three on Guam and two in Saipan. First Hawaiian, Inc. (NASDAQ: FHB) is the parent company of First Hawaiian Bank. **(PR)**

» FHB offers this service to FHB customers and non-customers alike

BOH temporarily adjusting call center hours

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii is announcing a temporary change to its call center hours in an effort to reduce wait times during the COVID-19 situation. Effective, Saturday, April 18, Bank of Hawaii's call center, normally operating 24/7, will be open from 7am to 9pm. HST daily until further notice.

This change is due to very light call volume during overnight hours, and will allow the bank to add call center agents to its daytime shifts to accommodate customers at home during the day.

Lost or stolen card inquiries will continue to be handled 24/7. Customers may follow the prompts on the phone as directed.

The bank encourages customers, if possible, to avoid calling during its heaviest call times between 11am and 4pm. Customers may use its online, mobile

and ATM options for many banking services, including viewing balances/transactions, changing addresses, depositing checks, etc. For more information about digital banking, please visit: <https://www.boh.com/covid-19-main-page/remotebanking-options>.

Bank of Hawaii continues to assess its branch status based on community need. Effective Monday, April 20, the bank will reopen Keeaumoku Branch (at 1451 S. King Street) in Honolulu; it will keep the same hours as the rest of its branches:

■ Kupuna hour: Monday-Friday: 8am-9am/Saturdays: 9am-10am

■ General hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm/Saturday: 10am-1pm

For a complete listing of availability and hours, please visit www.boh.com/covid-19-main-page/available-services. **(PR)**



KRIZEL TUAZON
The First Hawaiian Bank Guadalupe branch on Saipan.

Trump says he's close to a deal with Congress on virus aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration and Congress are nearing an agreement on an aid package of up to \$450 billion to boost a small-business loan program that has run out of money and add funds for hospitals and COVID-19 testing.

President Donald Trump said Sunday, "We're getting close to a deal."

Along with the small business boost, Trump said the negotiators were looking at "helping our hospitals," particularly hard-hit rural health care providers.

A deal could be announced Monday, the president said at a White House briefing.

With small-business owners reeling during a coronavirus outbreak that has shuttered much economic activity, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said earlier Sunday he was hopeful of a deal that could pass Congress

quickly and get the Small Business Administration program back up by midweek.

"I think we're very close to a deal today. I'm hopeful that we can get that done," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said he believed a deal could be reached late Sunday or early Monday. "We still have a few more details to deal with," he said.

The Senate is scheduled for a pro forma session Monday, but no vote has been set.

The House announced it could meet as soon as Wednesday for a recorded vote on the pending package, according to a schedule update from Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md.

Under the emerging deal there would be \$300 billion for small-business payroll program, and \$50 billion would be available for small business disaster fund. Additionally, it would bring \$75 billion for

hospitals and \$25 billion for testing, according to those involved in the talks.

On a conference call Sunday afternoon that included Trump, Mnuchin and Republican senators, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., indicated the only remaining item for discussion involved the money for testing, according to a Senate GOP leadership aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a private call.

Under the emerging deal, the government's Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses would get roughly \$300 billion, according to Mnuchin. The program has been swamped by companies applying for loans and reached its appropriations limit last Thursday after approving nearly 1.7 million loans. That left thousands of small businesses in limbo as they sought help. An additional \$50 billion in the evolving deal would go

for disaster loans.

About \$75 billion would go to U.S. hospitals, for those straining under a ballooning coronavirus caseload as well as those struggling to stay financially afloat after suspending elective surgeries during the pandemic. About \$25 billion would be added for COVID-19 testing, something states have said was urgently needed. The money for hospitals and testing were priorities sought by congressional Democrats.

But additional aid to state and local governments would be left out, Mnuchin said. Democrats have been keen to boost funding to cash-strapped states and local governments whose revenues have cratered, but the issue threatened to provoke fights between large, high-tax states like California and New York and smaller states more typically run by Republicans.

Nation

Reports suggest many have had coronavirus with no symptoms

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

A flood of new research suggests that far more people have had the coronavirus without any symptoms, fueling hope that it will turn out to be much less lethal than originally feared.

While that's clearly good news, it also means it's impossible to know who around you may be contagious. That complicates decisions about returning to work, school and normal life.

In the last week, reports of silent infections have come from a homeless shelter in Boston, a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, pregnant women at a New York hospital, several European countries and California.

The head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 25% of infected people might not have symptoms. The vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Hyten, thinks it may be as high as 60% to 70% among military personnel.

None of these numbers can be fully trusted because they're based on flawed and inadequate testing, said Dr. Michael Mina of Harvard's School of Public Health.

Collectively, though, they suggest "we have just been off the mark by huge, huge numbers" for estimating total infections, he said.

Worldwide, more than 2.3 million infections and more than 160,000 deaths have been confirmed. The virus has caused nearly unprecedented economic and social harm since its existence was reported in early January.

STEALTH CASES

Based on known cases, health



officials have said the virus usually causes mild or moderate flu-like illness. Now evidence is growing that a substantial number of people may have no symptoms at all.

Scientists in Iceland screened 6% of its population to see how many had previously undetected infections and found that about 0.7% tested positive. So did 13% of a group at higher risk because of recent travel or exposure to someone sick.

Aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, where one crew member died from the virus, "the rough numbers are that 40 percent are symptomatic," said Vice Adm. Phillip Sawyer, deputy

commander of naval operations. The ratio may change if more develop symptoms later, he warned.

In New York, a hospital tested all pregnant women coming in to deliver over a two-week period. Nearly 14% of those who arrived with no symptoms of coronavirus turned out to have it. Of the 33 positive cases, 29 had no symptoms when tested, although some developed them later.

Previously, tests on passengers and crew from the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship found nearly half who tested positive had no symptoms at the time. Researchers estimate that 18% of infected people never developed any.

FLAWED METHODS

These studies used tests that look for bits of the virus from throat and nose swabs, which can miss cases. Someone can test negative one day if there's not much virus to detect and then positive the next.

Symptoms also may not appear when someone is tested but turn up later. One Japanese study found more than half of those who had no symptoms when they tested positive later felt sick.

Better answers may come from newer tests that check blood for antibodies, substances the immune system makes to fight the virus. But the accuracy of these, too, is still to be determined.

AP
In this Friday, April 10, 2020, file photo, amid coronavirus concerns, a healthcare worker takes the temperature of a visitor to Essentia Health who was crossing over a skywalk bridge from the adjoining parking deck, in Duluth, Minn.

81,000 cases in the county — more than 50 times the number that have been confirmed.

The work has not been formally published or reviewed, but some scientists were quick to question it. Participants were recruited through Facebook ads, which would attract many people likely to be positive who have had symptoms and want to know if the coronavirus was the reason. Some neighborhoods also had way more participants than others, and "hot spots" within the county might have made infections seem more common than they are elsewhere.

Ships, maternity wards and single counties also don't provide data that can be used to generalize about what's happening elsewhere. And many of the figures have come from snapshots, not research on wide populations over time.

Storms rake Deep South, 1 week after deadly tornado outbreak

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Severe thunderstorms pounded parts of the Deep South with hail, high winds and drenching rains on Sunday as forecasters warned residents to brace for possible overnight tornadoes and flooding across a region reeling from a deadly twister outbreak one week ago.

Tornado watches ranged across parts of Louisiana and Mississippi into Alabama and Georgia on Sunday night. It was the second Sunday in a row that the South was hit with severe weather.

Flash flood warnings were in effect around the region, the National Weather Service said. Its Jackson, Mississippi, office, tweeted video of a roadway awash in rainwater in the city of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, saying some streets there were were inundated by heavy rains from a severe storm late Sunday.

The city of Hattiesburg's online site tweeted for people to stay off several roads made impassible by the storms: "We're already flooded out, and we have hours of rain ahead."

The weather service's

Storm Prediction Center said it also received reports of telephone poles snapped by a potent storm along a highway near Marion, Mississippi.

High winds also uprooted trees and left blankets of hail on the ground in some areas in Alabama earlier in the day during a first round of severe weather, the National Weather Service reported.

The severe weather threat was expected to continue over parts of the South through the night and carried the risk of strong tornadoes into the early hours Monday, according to the weather service. Tornadoes were a possible threat across of parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama Georgia and South Carolina.

A zone extending across the southern parts of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia was at greatest risk of severe weather and tornadoes, the national Storm Prediction Center projected. The area is home to more than 5 million people and includes cities such as Jackson, Mississippi; Montgomery, Alabama; and Macon, Georgia.

'They're killing us,' Texas residents say of Trump rollbacks

HOUSTON (AP)—Danielle Nelson's best monitor for the emissions billowing out of the oil refineries and chemical plants surrounding her home: The heaving chest of her 9-year-old asthmatic son.

On some nights, the boy's chest shudders as he fights for breath in his sleep. Nelson suspects the towering plants and refineries are to blame, rising like a lit-up city at night around her squat brick apartment building in the rugged Texas Gulf Coast city of Port Arthur.

Ask Nelson what protection the federal government and plant operators provide her African American community, and her answer is blunt. "They're basically killing us," says the 37-year-old, who herself has been diagnosed with

respiratory problems since moving to the community after 2017's Hurricane Harvey.

"We don't even know what we're breathing," she says.

The Texas Gulf Coast is the United States' petrochemical corridor, with four of the country's 10 biggest oil and gas refineries and thousands of chemical facilities.

Residents of the mostly black and Latino communities closest to the refineries and chemical plants say that puts them on the front line of the Trump administration's rollbacks of decades of public health and environmental protections.

Under President Donald Trump, federal regulatory changes are slashing requirements on industry to monitor, report and reduce toxic

pollutants, heavy metals and climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions, and to work transparently with communities to prevent plant disasters—such as the half-dozen major chemical fires and explosions that have killed workers, frightened residents and disrupted life along the Texas Gulf Coast over the past year alone.

And that plunge in public health enforcement may be about to get even more dramatic. Last month, Environmental Protection Agency administrator Andrew Wheeler, a coal lobbyist before Trump appointed him to the agency, announced enforcement waivers for industries on monitoring, reporting and quickly fixing hazardous releases in instances where the EPA decides that staffing problems

related to the coronavirus pandemic have made compliance difficult.

Since then, air pollutants in Houston's most heavily industrialized areas have surged as much as 62%, a Texas A & M analysis of state air monitor readings found.

EPA says it is balancing public and business interests in trimming what the Trump administration considers unnecessary regulations.

"Maintaining public health and enforcing existing environmental protections is of the upmost importance to EPA," agency spokeswoman Andrea Woods said by email. "This administration's deregulatory efforts are focused on rooting out inefficiencies, not paring back protections for any sector of society."

Asia

N. Korean defectors, experts question zero virus claim

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—As a doctor in North Korea during the SARS outbreak and flu pandemic, Choi Jung Hun didn't have much more than a thermometer to decide who should be quarantined.

Barely paid, with no test kits and working with antiquated equipment, if anything, he and his fellow doctors in the northeastern city of Chongjin were often unable to determine who had the disease, even after patients died, said Choi, who fled to South Korea in 2012.

Local health officials weren't asked to confirm cases or submit them to the central government in Pyongyang, Choi said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Experts say North Korea's reluctance to admit major outbreaks of disease, its wrecked medical infrastructure and its extreme sensitivity to any potential threat to Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule means that Pyongyang is likely handling the current coronavirus pandemic in the same manner.

This has led to widespread skepticism over the nation's claim to have zero infections.

"It's a lie," Choi, 45, said. "Year after year, and in every season, diverse infectious diseases repeatedly occur but North Korea says there isn't any outbreak."

Outsiders strongly suspect that coronavirus, which has infected more than 2.4 million people, has already spread to North Korea because it shares a long, porous border with China, its most important trading partner and biggest aid benefactor. China is where the first known coronavirus cases were reported in December.

North Korea, which has quarantined tens of thousands and delayed the school year as precautionary steps, officially sealed its border with China in January, but smuggling across the frontier still likely happens. Activist groups in Seoul said they've been told by contacts in North Korea that people had died of the virus. Those claims cannot be independently verified.

While there have been no reliable outside reports of mass infections in North Korea yet, the country's tight

control on information allows few foreign experts to assert with an authority that the North's quarantine regime has been successful. As seen in Singapore, the coronavirus can surge again, and North Korea's powerful Politburo said last week it would further bolster anti-epidemic steps.

"I think a considerable number of people could die. But that won't be disclosed to the outside world because the



Choi

North is not even able to diagnose patients with (the coronavirus)," said Kim Sin-gon, a professor at Korea University College of Medicine in Seoul. He said North Korea is struggling to

treat seriously ill patients, and noted U.N. reports that about 40% of its 24 million people are undernourished.

Russia's foreign ministry said in February it donated 1,500 coronavirus test kits to North Korea, and observers say similar kits have also been shipped there from China. Some relief agencies, including UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders, said they sent gloves, masks, goggles and hand hygiene products to North Korea.

North Korea's main newspaper recently called its public health system "the most superior in the world" and said that Kim Jong Un's devotion to improving it is the reason why there are no infections.

North Korea's socialist free medical service collapsed in the mid-1990s amid economic chaos and a famine that killed an estimated hundreds of thousands. In recent years, Kim Jong Un has built new hospitals and modernized some medical facilities as the economy improved, but most of the medical benefits still largely go to his ruling elite, experts say.

Dozens of refugees interviewed in a recent study said they felt the North's health care system has become poorer under Kim Jong Un, according to Min Ha-ju, a North Korean refugee-turned-researcher. She said the gap between the haves and the havenots in terms of medical service is deepening because a crumbled state rationing system has led to a burgeoning private economy.

Choi, the doctor who worked in North Korea, said

his monthly salary was the equivalent of about 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of rice and that he received cigarettes from patients in return for telling them what medicine they should buy at markets.

Cho Chung-hui, a former local North Korean official who is now with the Seoul-based NGO Good Farmers, said he gave cash to doctors to cure gastritis and enteritis.

Choi and Cho said measles, chickenpox, cholera, typhoid, paratyphoid, hepatitis and tuberculosis repeatedly swept through North Korea when they were there. Choi said he wore no masks, gloves or protective gear during outbreaks and used equipment manufactured in the 1960-70s.

During the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, Choi said hundreds of people in Chongjin died after suffering flu-like symptoms during eight months of intense quarantine.

"But no (doctors) can dare to diagnose the dead with SARS. There wasn't an order to confirm the cause of their deaths, and we didn't have diagnostic kits," said Choi, now a researcher at a Korea University-affiliated institute.

During a 2009 flu pandemic, Choi said he didn't have diagnostic kits and asked patients with fevers what antibiotics they had used before placing some under quarantine. After many patients died, he speculated their deaths were likely linked to the flu.

In a highly unusual admission of a disease outbreak apparently aimed at winning outside aid, North Korea's state media said in December 2009 that nine people in Pyongyang and the northwestern border town of Sinuiju had contracted the flu.

Some say North Korea may not have big clusters of infections because it doesn't have densely populated cities and strictly restricts freedom of movement and association. But many others disagree, saying all North Koreans are required to attend diverse state-organized group activities and a lack of adequate sanitation could worsen outbreaks. There are also questions about the workings of North Korea's quarantine campaign.

The North's medical system is like a "a broken rusty pistol which doesn't even have a bullet because it hasn't been maintained for a long time," Choi said.

World

DEADLIEST IN CANADIAN HISTORY

16 killed in shooting rampage

TORONTO (AP)—A gunman disguised as a police officer shot people in their homes and set fires in a rampage across the Canadian province of Nova Scotia that killed 16 people, the deadliest such attack in the country's history. Officials said Sunday the suspected shooter was also dead.

A police officer was among those killed. Several bodies were found inside and outside one home in the small, rural town of Portapique, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of Halifax—what police called the first scene. Bodies were also found at other locations. The assault began late Saturday, and authorities believe the shooter may have targeted his first victims but then began attacking randomly.

Overnight, police began advising residents of the town—already on lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic—to lock their doors and stay in their basements. Several homes in the area were set on fire as well.

Police identified the man believed to be the shooter as Gabriel Wortman, 51, who was thought to live part-time in Portapique. Authorities said he wore a police uniform at one point and made his car look like a Royal Canadian Mounted Police cruiser.

Police first announced that they had arrested Wortman at a gas station in Enfield, outside Halifax, but later said

he had died. It was not clear how, and they did not explain further.

"This is one of the most senseless acts of violence in our province's history," said Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil.

RCMP spokesman Daniel Brien confirmed that 16 people had been killed in addition to the suspect. The dead officer was identified as Constable Heidi Stevenson, a mother of two and a 23-year veteran of the force. Another officer was also injured.

Mass shootings are relatively rare in Canada. The country overhauled its gun-control laws after gunman Marc Lepine killed 14 women and himself at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique college in 1989. Before this weekend's rampage, that had been the country's worst.

It is now illegal to possess an unregistered handgun or any kind of rapid-fire weapon in Canada. The country also requires training, a personal risk assessment, two references, spousal notification and criminal record checks to purchase a weapon.

"As a country, in moments like these, we come together to support one another. Together we will mourn with the families of the victims, and help them get through this difficult time," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a written news release.

While they believe the attack did not begin as random, police did not say what the

initial motive was. RCMP Chief Superintendent Chris Leather said many of the victims did not know the shooter.

"That fact that this individual had a uniform and a police car at his disposal certainly speaks to it not being a random act," Leather said. He added that police believe he acted alone.

Leather said they would investigate whether the attack had anything to do with the coronavirus pandemic but no link has been found thus far.

At one point, there was an exchange of gunfire between the suspect and police, he said.

Late Sunday morning, there were half a dozen police vehicles at the scene of the gas station where the suspect died. Yellow police tape surrounded the gas pumps, and a large silver-colored SUV was being investigated.

Cpl. Lisa Croteau, a spokeswoman with the provincial force, said police received a call about "a person with firearms" late Saturday night, and the investigation "evolved into an active shooting investigation."

Christine Mills, a resident of the area, said it had been a frightening night for the small town, with armed officers patrolling the streets. In the morning, helicopters flew overhead searching for the suspect. "It's nerve-wracking because you don't know if somebody has lost their mind and is going to beat in your front door," she said.

Pope dreams of post-virus world where inequalities abolished

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis is urging the faithful to use the coronavirus pandemic's "time of trial" to prepare for a future where inequalities are abolished and the poorest are no longer left behind.

"This is not some ideology," Francis said. "It is Christianity."

Francis traveled a few blocks outside the Vatican walls on Sunday to celebrate Mass at a nearby church to mark a special feast day dedicated to mercy. Only a few priests were in the pews given Italy's strict virus lockdown.

In his homily, Francis said the grave, global toll of the pandemic has reminded the world that there are no borders between those who suffer, no differences in nationalities among those who are struck or spared.

"We are all frail, all equal,

all precious," he said.

"May we be profoundly shaken by what is happening all around us," he said from the altar of the Santo Spirito church. "The time has come to eliminate inequalities, to heal the injustice that is undermining the health of the entire human family!"

While people infected with the coronavirus often experience mild or moderate symptoms, possible complications like pneumonia can put their lives at risk.

Francis has been using his daily livestreamed Masses in the Vatican hotel where he lives to single out a particular group of people for prayers during the pandemic: the elderly, doctors and nurses, prisoners and those with disabilities.

On Sunday, he delivered a broader message about in-

equality and the need for a post-virus world to rethink its priorities. It's a theme that echoes the pre-pandemic preaching of the world's first Latin American pope, who has constantly demanded greater solidarity among rich and poor.

In recent days, Francis has proposed the creation of a universal basic wage to help those who have lost their jobs as a result of the virus economic shutdown to survive. On Sunday, he said there is a grave risk that while COVID-19 might eventually be tamed, the virus of "selfishness indifference" could take its place.

To combat that risk, he said: "Let us welcome this time of trial as an opportunity to prepare for our collective future. Because without an all-embracing vision, there will be no future for anyone."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: The 2020 Toyota 4Runner TRD Pro is the perfect social distancing tool

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

I have been contemplating how I am managing social distancing in the age of coronavirus and have concluded that I am handling this all wrong. Instead of being cooped up in my home near the beach that I'm not allowed on, near the restaurant that no longer allows me into their dining room and the store that only permits me to shop online, I should have taken a truly capable SUV and trotted off to a remote cabin in the wilderness.

As long as I am isolated, why not do it someplace peaceful and bucolic?

But I would need a vehicle to get me there, and alas, I thought of this far too late. Before America became an alternative version of life prison sentence without parole, I had already sampled the 2020 Toyota 4Runner TRD Pro midsize sport utility vehicle. And given its capabilities, it would make the perfect escape vehicle. After all, in a marketplace riddled with SUV pretenders, the 2020 Toyota 4Runner TRD Pro remains what it always has been: an honest-to-God, unpretentious body-on-frame sport utility vehicle in an era when most SUVs are little more than sedans in drag.

That makes the 4Runner somewhat of an anomaly, a model out of its time, but eminently timeless because of it. In that regard, it's like a four-door Jeep Wrangler, albeit without the decades-long military heritage, fold-down windshield and removable doors.

And like the Wrangler, its long-lived durability doesn't come cheap, with prices starting at \$36,120. So let's hope you still have an income to

cover those monthly payments.

If you're familiar with the 4Runner, you'll know that its 4.0-liter V-6 engine and five-speed automatic transmission routes 270 horsepower through the rear wheels or all four. If you choose the later, you get a choice of part-time four-wheel drive with a two-speed transfer case and a selectable low range or, on pricier models, a full-time multi-mode four-wheel drive system with a two-speed transfer case and locking center differential. The system uses a locking Torsen center differential activated through a three-mode, console-mounted switch. It normally supplies 40 percent of the power to the front wheels, 60 to the rear. If the wheels slip, the Torsen differential changes the split to 30/70. If this happened while cornering, the split changes to 53/47. And like the Wrangler, there are some true anachronistic touches, such as the tailgate window that can be raised and lowered.

But there are updates for the new model year.

There's a new instrument panel this year with a high-resolution 8-inch touchscreen and Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and Amazon Alexa compatibility. Rear seat passengers now get two USB ports, while all grades get Toyota Safety Sense P, a suite of driver-assistance features, including a pre-collision system with pedestrian detection, lane departure alert with sway warning, automatic high beams and high-speed dynamic radar cruise control.

That said, there are a number of trim levels, starting with



TNS
The 2020 Toyota 4Runner TRD Pro has a 4.0-liter V6 engine and five-speed automatic transmission.

a rear-wheel drive SR5, and climbing through TRD Off-Road, TRD Off-Road Premium, Limited, and TRD Pro as well as Venture and Nightshade special editions.

Toyota offered up the TRD Pro, the most expensive 4Runner offered, as well as the most capable. Last year, this trim got some significant upgrades, the most crucial being an all-new suspension package with 2.5-inch Fox Internal Bypass Shocks for athletic off-road performance without sacrificing on-road handling. The Pro also got additional standard equipment, including a TRD Roof Rack, JBL premium audio system, moon roof, and a revised front skid plate with red TRD lettering as well as a smart key ignition system with

push-button ignition and a new cat-back exhaust that supplies a menacing soundtrack to any off-road adventures.

Despite the changes, the 4Runner remains what it has always been: an incredibly capable SUV that trades some on-road comfort for off-road agility. That said, it's not nearly as uncomfortable as you might think, thanks to the suspension revisions that tame excessive body motions, although you will notice them over bumps and in corners because it is fairly firm. The V-6 is loaded with torque, allowing for a 5,000-pound towing capacity, but it makes a coarse sound when pushed, something the cat-back exhaust helps disguise.

As you'd expect, the 9.5-

inch ground clearance that makes it such an off-road champ means you have a very high step-in height. Once seated, you'll find the cabin isn't very tall, so you're sitting close to the vehicle's floor. Legroom is good for the two rows. A third row is optional, but its small size makes it practically useless. Besides, when in use it shrinks available cargo space to 9 cubic feet. And for a vehicle with this sort of price tag, the interior feels like that of a vehicle that costs half the price due to a lot of hard plastic surfaces.

Still, the 4Runner's ruggedness along with Toyota's legendary reliability make this SUV the real deal; one that will last a long time, longer than many of its faux competitors.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Toyota 4Runner TRD Pro

- Base price: \$50,985
- Engine: 4.0-liter DOHC six-cylinder
- Horsepower/Torque: 270/278
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 17/20 mpg
- Fuel required: Regular
- Length/Width/Height: 190.2/75.8/72 inches
- Ground clearance: 9.6 inches
- Cargo capacity: 47.2-89.7 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 5,000 pounds
- Curb weight: 4,750 pounds

MOTORMOUTH:

Q: Based on my last inspection, I am due for new brake pads for my 2011 Cadillac SRX. Searching brake shops, I find a wide range of prices starting at \$99 per axle from a national chain to \$199 from a Cadillac dealer. What should I be asking for?

A: Brake friction materials must comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. That said, many low-cost brake pads wear quicker than higher priced ones. They may also produce more brake dust that deposits on your wheels. I prefer to go with ceramic brake pads that tend to fade less than organic or semi-metallic pads.

Q: I have experienced a

Good brakes are worth paying more for

problem on several trucks with the outside of tires usually on the driver's side. A rust colored film, like dirt, will cover part of the tire and sometimes the whole tire. I do not hit curbs or potholes. It can't be cleaned with soap, water and a brush. I have to use a tire cleaner and scrub it until it disappears. It happens frequently. Any ideas?

A: Brake dust. It is tenacious. Soap and water seldom do the job. I suggest a good wheel cleaner. Avoid acid cleaners that can damage alloy wheels. Be sure to rinse the stuff off pronto.

Q: Regarding the question about cigarette lighter air

compressors, you may want to suggest to readers that those inexpensive pumps draw a lot of power from the cigarette lighter outlet. Based on my experience, you want to turn off things like the headlights, ventilation fans, even the radio, to allow as much juice to be available for the air compressor.

A: Many new cars come without a spare. Instead, they have a kit containing a can of tire sealer and a 12-volt compressor. The compressors are much powerful and efficient than the cheap dollar store ones, otherwise the car companies would not rely on them.

Q: Several years ago I had the constant problem of one

or two inches of water in the trunk of an Olds. My solution was to use a drift and punch a hole in the floor of the trunk. Worked perfectly.

A: Back in the olden days, cars had drain holes with rubber plugs. But today, you must make your own holes. If you do, I suggest you put stoppers in them or you may find more water than you had expected after driving through a deep puddle. Better still, find and seal the original leak.

Q: I read your column about the cracked windshield problem and I have a solution. I own a 2006 Ford Mustang, and within a couple of months of owning it a small rock hit the windshield

By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



and made a little crack. I went to the car dealership and they used some kind of glue or whatever to fix it and charged me a hundred bucks, and it worked! The crack never got bigger.

A: What you had was a

bulls-eye chip. Chips can be filled with a UV activated resin that prevents a chip from becoming a crack. Auto glass companies offer this service. Some even charge less than \$100. Insurance coverage often pays all of it.

Life & Style

Elba and wife, recovering from coronavirus, to help others

Even though they only had mild symptoms, Idris Elba says he and his wife had their lives “turned around” after contracting the coronavirus, calling the experience “definitely scary and unsettling and nervous.”

“You know, everyone’s sort of feeling the way we have been feeling, but it has definitely been sort of just a complete upheaval,” he told The Associated Press late last week.

But the British actor feels that there are life lessons to be learned, and the pandemic serves as a reminder that “the world doesn’t tick on your time.”

“I think that the world should take a week of quarantine every year just to remember this time. Remember each other. I really do,” he said.

The British actor and his model wife, Sabrina Dhowre Elba, spoke to the AP as they began a push with the United Nations to lessen the impact of COVID-19 on farmers and food producers in rural areas.

“People forget that 80 percent of the poor population live

in these rural areas,” Dhowre Elba said. “What we are really worried about at the moment, and why we are launching this fund is that those people are being forgotten.”

In their new roles as U.N. Goodwill Ambassadors, Elba and his wife, have joined forces with the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to launch the new \$40 million fund.

The actor believes people in rural and poor areas are likely to suffer more in the pandemic.

“If you imagine being in a village where no one even knows the name of your village or your population, and that you live in a slum where there is one room and six of you live in it,” he said. “Social distancing is almost laughable.”

“What we are really worried about at the moment, and why we are launching this fund is that those people are being forgotten,” Dhowre Elba said. “While health, you know, is so important at the moment ... we don’t want people to forget



In a Saturday, July 13, 2019 file photo, cast member Idris Elba, center, arrives with his wife Sabrina Dhowre Elba, left, and Isan Elba, right, at the Los Angeles premiere of “Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw”, at the Dolby Theatre. AP

about what comes after that.”

Both Elba and his wife have roots in Africa; Elba’s parents are from Sierra Leone and Ghana, while Dhowre Elba is of Somali descent. The pair went to Sierra Leone in December with the United Nations to see how IFAD has as-

sisted people there.

Elba said he was particularly concerned as to what the coronavirus pandemic could do on the continent in countries already suffering economically.

“We have to think about the forward planning. What’s

what’s the fallout going to be?” he said.

The couple have been recovering in New Mexico, where the actor was filming when he became sick, but plan to return to London as soon as they can get a flight. Elba said he had to miss his 6-year-old

son’s birthday because of the lockdown but he’s “hoping to see him as soon as I can.”

“We’ve been fortunate,” he added. “We have been staying in a lovely place that’s been very comfortable for the time. But we’re looking forward to going home.” (AP)

Babyface-Teddy Riley battle fizzles on Instagram Live

NEW YORK (AP)—The much-hyped battle between Kenny “Babyface” Edmonds and Teddy Riley was derailed by audio issues, forcing the R&B producers to postpone the Instagram Live event.

More than 400,000 tuned in Saturday night to watch the livestream with Riley and Edmonds. But sound and technical issues plagued the friendly competition. Riley appeared to prepare more for a concert, with a set-up that led to echoing and playback.

The battle had already been postponed from April 12 after Edmonds was diagnosed with COVID-19. The Grammy-winning singer and producer, said last week he and his family—who also tested positive—were recovering.

After about an hour of troubleshooting Saturday, the 61-year-old singer said they would try again another time.

“I think that it’s only right that we postpone this thing until another time when there aren’t any technical difficulties, and everybody can hear the music the way it needs to be heard,” said Edmonds.

Broadway star Nick Cordero has leg amputation due to virus

NEW YORK (AP)—Tony Award-nominated actor Nick Cordero has had his right leg amputated after suffering complications from the coronavirus, his wife says.

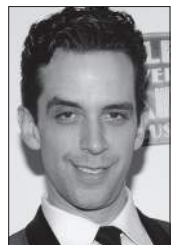
Amanda Kloots on Instagram wrote late Saturday that Cordero “made it out of surgery alive and is headed to his room to rest and recover.”

Cordero had been treated with blood thinners to help with clotting in his leg, but his

doctors had to stop the treatment because it was causing internal bleeding.

“We took him off blood thinners but that again was going to cause some clotting in the right leg, so the right leg will be amputated today,” she said earlier Saturday.

Cordero entered the intensive care unit at Ce-



Cordero

dars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles on March 31 and has been on a ventilator and unconscious after contracting COVID-19.

His wife has been sending him daily videos of her and their 10-month-old son, Elvis, so he could see them when he woke up, and urging friends and fans to join a

daily sing-a-long. A GoFundMe fundraiser has raised over \$200,000.

Cordero played a mob soldier with a flair for the dramatic in 2014 in Broadway’s Woody Allen 1994 film adaptation of “Bullets Over Broadway,” for which he received a Tony nomination for best featured actor in a musical. He moved to Los Angeles to star in “Rock of Ages.”

The lanky Cordero origi-

nated the menacing role of husband Earl opposite his estranged wife, played by Jessie Mueller, in “Waitress” on Broadway, as well as the role of Sonny in Chazz Palminteri’s “A Bronx Tale.”

On the small screen, Cordero appeared in several episodes of “Blue Bloods” and “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” as well as “Lilyhammer” and he had a role in the film “Going in Style.”

Teen’s graduation party plans hurt his stepmom’s feelings

DEAR ABBY: I really could use some outside advice. I am a stepmother who raised my husband’s 18-year-old son, “Todd.” We have given him a loving home. Todd’s abusive mother abandoned him at 16, and he has lived with us ever since.

I have been a caring and generous mother to him since he was 6. I have always gone out of my way to make sure he feels comfortable, loved, fed, etc. So I couldn’t help but feel slapped in the face when he told me he doesn’t want to have his graduation party at our home. He said he is having it at his friend’s parents’ house. This is the same couple who disapproved of their son spending time in our home while the boys grew up because we’re not their religion.

I don’t know how to handle this gracefully without feeling hurt or refusing to be a part of it. I know this may seem childish, but it’s how I feel on the inside. Can you help me?

DISAPPOINTED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: It might help to realize this isn’t a personal slap in the face. His friend’s parents may have something special planned that Todd doesn’t want to miss. It has nothing to do with your parenting and plenty to do with his level of immaturity and perhaps the appeal of the other house. (Ask him.) Please be smart and refrain from making this about you, because it isn’t.

DEAR ABBY: My husband has reconnected with an ex-wife from more than 50 years ago. He found her on Facebook. They chat every day, several times a day. Before he reconnected with her, he would talk about her, how she was his first love and he would always have a special place for her in his heart, even though she cheated on him and left him. Now he has begun calling her a pet name he used to call me. Is this cheating, or am I overreacting?

BETRAYED IN OHIO

DEAR BETRAYED: You are not overreacting. Your husband is involved in an emotional affair. For the sake of your marriage, it needs to stop. If he won’t accept it from you, perhaps he will listen to his religious adviser, a marriage counselor or your lawyer. Do not try to fight this alone; you may need their help along the way.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 63 years died three years ago. He was sexually abused by a family friend when he was very young and never disclosed it. He shared it with me some 20 years after our marriage and asked me not to tell our four children.

At some point, I shared it with my grown daughter, but not my three grown sons. Was I wrong to do this? My daughter feels I should tell them, and I sort of agree. Their relationship

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



with their father was loving, but also strained. Should I tell them now or let it be?

UNSURE IN MICHIGAN

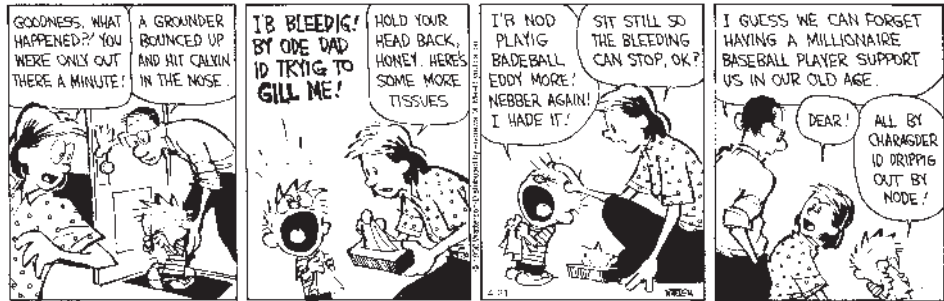
DEAR UNSURE: I agree with your daughter. Because the sexual abuse your husband suffered may have affected the relationship he had with your sons, it might be helpful if they understand the reason why it was the way it was. Sunshine on dark places can yield positive outcomes.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



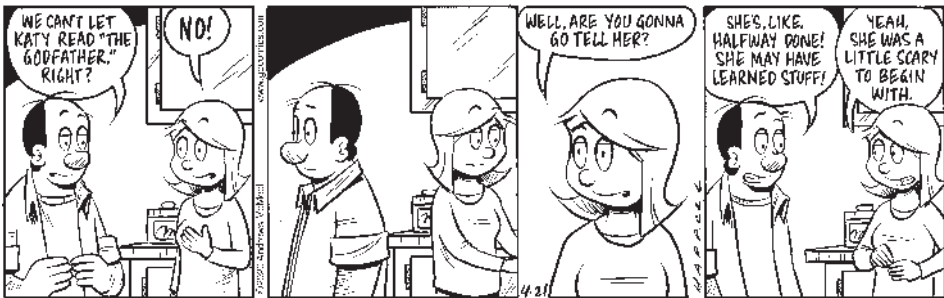
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Low isle 40 Texas cook-off dish 43 Impersonated 47 Stance 49 Jason's ship 50 Shakespeare title 51 Wet dirt 52 Fish story 53 Plane reservation 54 Spanish gold 55 Online auction site

DOWN 22 Lad 23 Gratuity 24 Med. plan option 25 Chances, for short 26 Mac rivals 27 Sch. URL ender 28 Cartoonist Chast 29 Observe 31 Rage 34 Sign up 35 Military group 36 Ozone, for one 37 Sailor's assent 39 Home-buyer's option 40 Tax prep pros 41 Pit 42 Madonna's "La — Bonita" 43 Serve beer 44 Colorless 45 Taj Mahal city 46 Electronics giant 48 "I think," in a text

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tony Romo, 40; Rob Riggle, 50; Andie MacDowell, 62; Iggy Pop, 73.

Happy Birthday: A simpler lifestyle will put an end to chaos, limitations and discord. Channel your energy into projects that won't lead to the poorhouse. Think big, but when the time comes to take action, do so for the least amount of money, time and energy, and it will encourage greater equality, balance and happiness in your life as the year unfolds. Your numbers are 9, 17, 22, 25, 39, 43, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotions will surface when dealing with peers and partners. Don't overreact, or you will end up looking bad. Take a step back, assess the situation and consider how to use your strengths to overcome controversy and interference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Confusion will set in if you have too many choices. Don't take on more than you can handle or give in to pressure someone puts on you. Carefully go over every detail to avoid making an impulsive decision that leads to regret.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't settle for anything less than your best. Refuse to let what others do or say cause grief or take away from what you are trying to accomplish. Be true to your beliefs, and set reasonable standards.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a unique approach to work or the way you present yourself to others. Differentiating yourself from the crowd will encourage others to take a second look, offer noteworthy comments

and help you hone what you have to offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Navigate your way through situations carefully. Don't feel you have to follow the crowd or get involved in something that doesn't suit your needs. Concentrate on what makes you happy, and follow your heart when it comes to romance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take a risk or trust someone with your money, possessions or anything that might affect your reputation. A change someone proposes will turn in to an elaborate and costly venture. Take better care of your health and well-being.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Step into the spotlight. Share your thoughts, gather information and consider the benefits mentally, physically and emotionally. Don't limit what you can do because someone doesn't agree with you. Follow your heart and intuition. Choose what makes you happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do something that you find stimulating. Learn something new or take on a challenge that requires creativity. This will change your perspective as well as your direction. Say no to those asking for too much. Put your needs first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make personal growth and happiness your goals. A healthier routine and proper diet will give you the energy to strive for something new and exciting. Expand your interests as well as your knowledge, and you'll get positive results. Romance is favored.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be prepared to combat chaos. Not everyone will see things your way or be willing to accommodate you. If it's a change you want to make, be sure to do your homework before you move forward. Don't let emotions interfere with an important decision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Home and family should be your focus. The way you use your space and how you deal with the people closest to you will determine how much you achieve. Personal improvement will boost your confidence, and romance will brighten your day.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A change may tempt you, but before you make a move, consider the fallout. It's best to get the approval of those affected by the decisions you make before you proceed. Honesty and integrity will be in your best interest.

Birthday Baby: You are intense, sensitive and passionate. You are creative and outspoken. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SPANISH GALLEONS Solution: 8 letters

SOHNITRAMIZZENZW
SANTAICNEROLFAD
OODRAOBAWORRANE
RJAUJILIARYRIDR
CLFSSACULGOWAPO
CRISTOVAONNRSEG
OSLISEGAEATOEAR
NAIUHABSIRESLEA
COPLLAASPIEMIEC
EMEGTRAFAELDVTA
PAATTIKCEDFOAIN
CTLSLSZEDNENEMN
IEEORDEPIHSIDEO
OUALVARODEBAZAN
NSOCRAMEDINALPS

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Aboard, Ages, Alvarode Bazán, Armed, Auxiliary, Battle, Cannons, Cargo, Clara, Concepcion, Cristóvão, Cross, de Aviles, Deck, Filipe, Fleet, Florencia, Joao, La Galga, Long, Lucas, Luis, Marcos, Martinho, Medina, Menendez, Mizzen, Narrow, Nuestra Señora, Peacetime, Pedro, Plan, Rafael, Sail, Santa, Sao Mateus, Ship, Sidonia, Trade, Wind

Yesterdays Answer: Personnel

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Kerr pressured to play for Jordan



CALIFORNIA—Steve Kerr both played on one of the best teams in NBA history and coached one of the best teams in NBA history. He's been around great players his entire life. But Kerr says no one put the pressure on you like Michael Jordan.

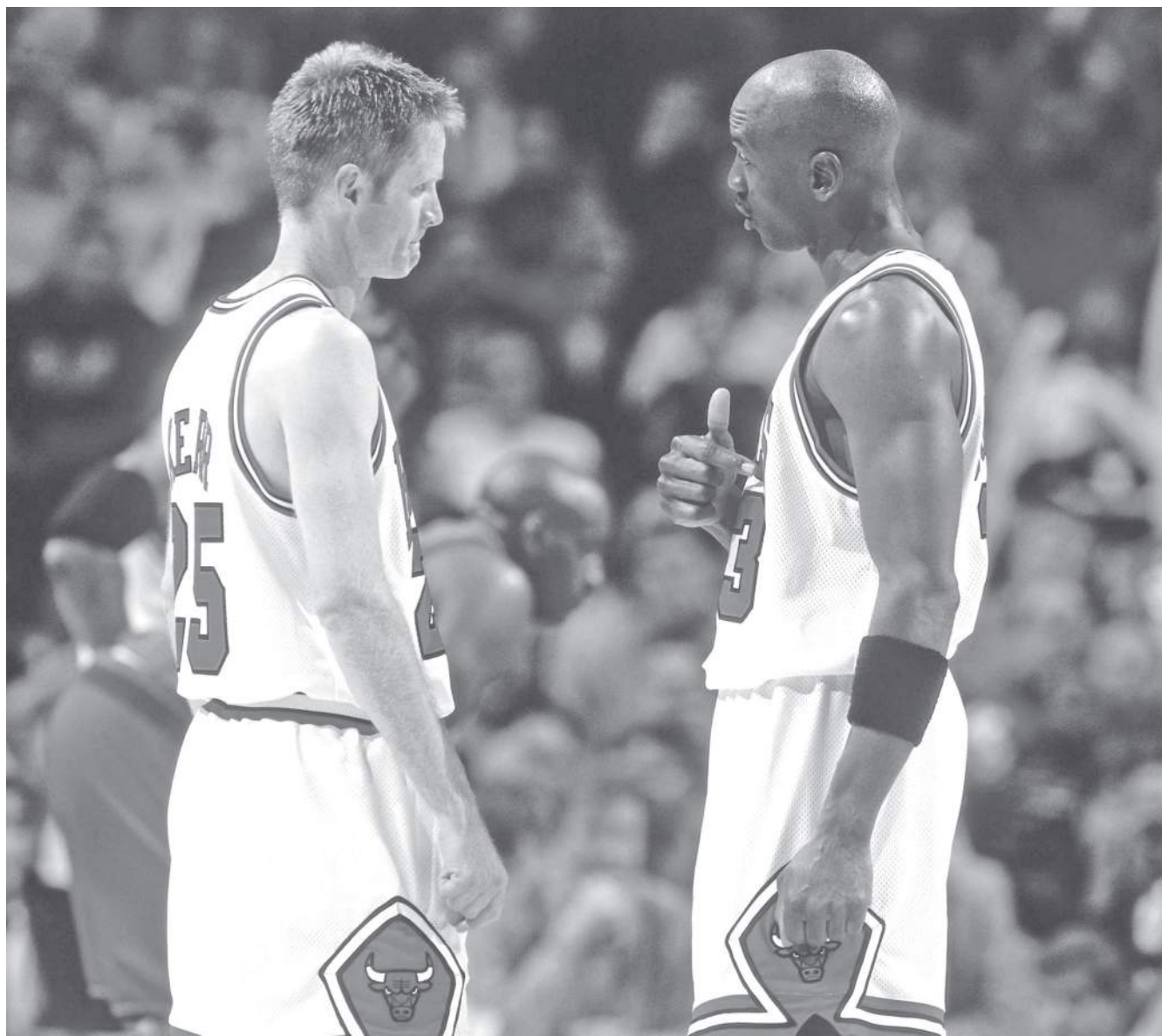
"There was a pressure that came with it when you were his teammate that I had never felt from anybody," Kerr said. "It was a great test. You had to step up and compete and perform every day."

Kerr held a conference call leading up to the premiere of "The Last Dance", a 10-part documentary series on the Jordan-led Bulls of the late-90s. He spoke of what it was like to be part of Chicago's second three-peat in an eight-year span. Kerr made the series-winning shot for the Bulls as they beat the Utah Jazz in 1998. He told the story of Jordan telling him to be ready in case he passed him the ball. Jordan did and Kerr made the shot.

"I always felt it was part of Michael's genius with raising that bar, the level of competition and performance for our team every day just because of who he was," Kerr said. "Nobody wanted to be left behind. He constantly pushed everybody forward."

Speaking of that final title run, Kerr said it was challenging because the Bulls "were running on fumes." General Manager Jerry Krause had let the team know before the season that Phil Jackson would not return as the team's coach after the 1998 season completed.

"One of the things that really drove us that year was full awareness that was going to be our last dance," Kerr said.



^{AP}
In this undated file photo, Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan, right, gestures to Steve Kerr during a break in one of their NBA games.

"There was just a life span on that team that wouldn't have allowed us to go on any further even if players were still under contract. We all felt like that was it. We were fortunate to win that last championship. There were plenty of difficult times along the way. It definitely felt like the end."

Kerr also spoke of team dealing with Dennis Rodman's unpredictable nature. He said Jackson handled the team's leading rebounder with a level of respect and let Rodman be his carefree self.

Jordan's legendary competitive nature also came up. Kerr laughed and told the story of the Bulls having shooting competitions from the hash mark after practice and shoot-around.

"Michael saw it and he just had to be involved," the Warriors coach said Monday on a conference call. "So, he came down and started getting into the contest every day. Before you knew it, it was for money. He would usually be winning."

"The Last Dance" director Jason Hehir said the docu-

mentary featured footage of one of the shooting contests from before Game 1 of the 1998 NBA Finals.

"Did he win? I bet he made it!" Kerr chuckled.

Hehir laughed and responded, "We'll leave it as a cliffhanger, but I think your description was pretty accurate."

"That was sort of a typical Michael story," Kerr said. "He craved competition. I think he loved the interaction when there were stakes involved. He loved the whole idea of competing in any form. That's

what made him who he was."

'The Last Dance' Bulls beat Warriors twice

The Warriors once held Jordan to a then-career-low 2-of-17 shooting in a game.

And still lost.

Such was the dominance of the 1997-98 Chicago Bulls, whose story will be told in ESPN's "The Last Dance," debuting Sunday.

Jordan's lackluster shooting night came in Oakland, although a quick review of the box score showed he still

was a force. Jordan went to the free-throw line 11 times and hit 10, to finish with 14 points in the Bulls' 87-80 win. Scottie Pippen (22 points) and Luc Longley (16 points) helped pick up the scoring load that night against a Warriors team still reeling from Latrell Sprewell's Dec. 1, 1997, choking of coach P.J. Carlesimo.

The Warriors hadn't fared much better against the eventual NBA champion Bulls 20 days earlier in Chicago, losing 87-82 as Jordan led all scorers with 32 points while adding six rebounds and three assists. Joe Smith topped the Warriors with 23 points and 11 rebounds, but he was a minus-10.

All in all, the Warriors went just 9-17 against Jordan, but three of those wins came at the downside of his career, when he was with the Wizards.

The Warriors did, however, hold Jordan under 30 points in 12 of their 26 meetings. He averaged 28.8 points against them, below his 30.1 career scoring average, and that 2-of-17 shooting mark (11.8 percent) from their 1998 meeting remained Jordan's worst until he hit only 1 of 9 attempts (11.1 percent) in a 2002 Wizards loss to the Toronto Raptors.

Golden State is one of 15 teams that held the six-time NBA champion under his career scoring average. Jordan was a winner, though, and it certainly isn't shocking that he got the best of the Warriors throughout his championship-filled Hall of Fame career.

Wayne Rooney has more thoughts on Major League Soccer.

The former D.C. United standout, who left MLS in August 2019 with two years left on his contract to join England second-tier Derby County as a player/coach, says owners are "taking advantage" of the league's trade and transfer system.

Speaking on Perfect Soccer's "Ask A Pro Show"—hosted by Rooney's former D.C. United teammate Quincy Amarikwa—Rooney said MLS owners are exploiting their players, and Americans in particular are getting the worst of it.

And it didn't take him long to realize it.

"My first week, we had a player who, when he finished training, he got told he was getting transferred onto somewhere else," Rooney said on

Rooney rips MLS' trade and transfer system

the show. "I was like, 'Why? What's going on here? Where is he going? What's going on? ... It's that easy to do.'"

Even though Rooney may have benefited from the system, it didn't sit right with him.

"I know it works that way in basketball [NBA] and in NFL, but those players get paid millions and millions of pounds. So, they can afford to actually do that, where MLS players can't. They get a small percentage of money, which won't even cover the bills, won't even cover what they have to live on," he said.

"It's wrong for that to happen. I think MLS needs to really look at that because, from seeing it, a lot of them owners are taking advantage of the league [structure], which is

affecting American players. It might benefit [others]. For me, I went there for 18 months, Zlatan [Ibrahimovic] was there for 2 years. We benefited from getting good adaptation in the USA and scoring a few goals. But for the guys who you leave behind, which I've never gotten to speak to, it still sits wrong with me, deep inside of me," Rooney added.

Rooney also talked about the coronavirus pandemic and much more during the show.

"I fear for those players in MLS. I know how MLS is run," Rooney said. "I really do fear for the players in the next two or three months. No one knows this might happen again."

More goals

Rooney may be Manchester United and England's record goalscorer, but he still believes he should have found the back of the net more often during his career, even though he was not a natural finisher.

Rooney, a teenage sensation at Everton, joined United in 2004 and went on to score 253 goals in 559 appearances during a 13-year spell for the Old Trafford club that saw the Red Devils pile up the trophies.

Rooney surpassed 1966 World Cup-winner Bobby Charlton as United's all-time leading scorer, just as he did for England with a tally of 53 goals from 120 caps.

Despite those figures

Rooney, writing in his Sunday Times column, insisted: "I'm going to be honest—and this might surprise you—but I'm not a natural goalscorer."

The 34-year-old, now a player-coach at second-tier Derby County, added: "I was never a Gary Lineker or a Ruud van Nistelrooy; I never looked at myself that way.

"I hold the goal records for Manchester United and England and am very proud about that—yet there have been better No 9s than me.

"How did I become a record-breaker if I wasn't a natural scorer? Time," Rooney explained. "I played for United for 13 years, England for 15 years. I had time to break those records—and looking back I should have scored more."

Rooney backed Harry Kane to break his England record, although he would like the Tottenham Hotspur striker "to stay high as that No 9" after seeing him drop deeper in during the past two seasons.

"I don't think it will take long for Harry Kane to claim my England record and it would be a proud moment for me," Rooney said. "I've never been a selfish player and it would be great for England for Harry to get there. Bobby Charlton had to wait 50 years (for Rooney to break his England record)—I hope it's not so long for me. The United record might last longer simply because players don't stay at clubs as long as they used to. Mind you, if (Lionel) Messi or (Cristiano) Ronaldo came to Old Trafford for a swansong they'd probably break it in three or four years."



High hopes on deep receiver class



NEW YORK (AP)—The upcoming NFL draft features a tantalizing class of wide receivers expected to make an immediate impact as rookies.

It's a tall task even for an exceptionally deep group that's expected to produce up to a half dozen first-round picks Thursday night.

Receivers face one of the hardest adjustments to the pros because they have to absorb a monster playbook, beat press coverage and elude D-backs who are quicker, stronger and savvier.

Sometimes the gamble pays off; sometimes it doesn't.

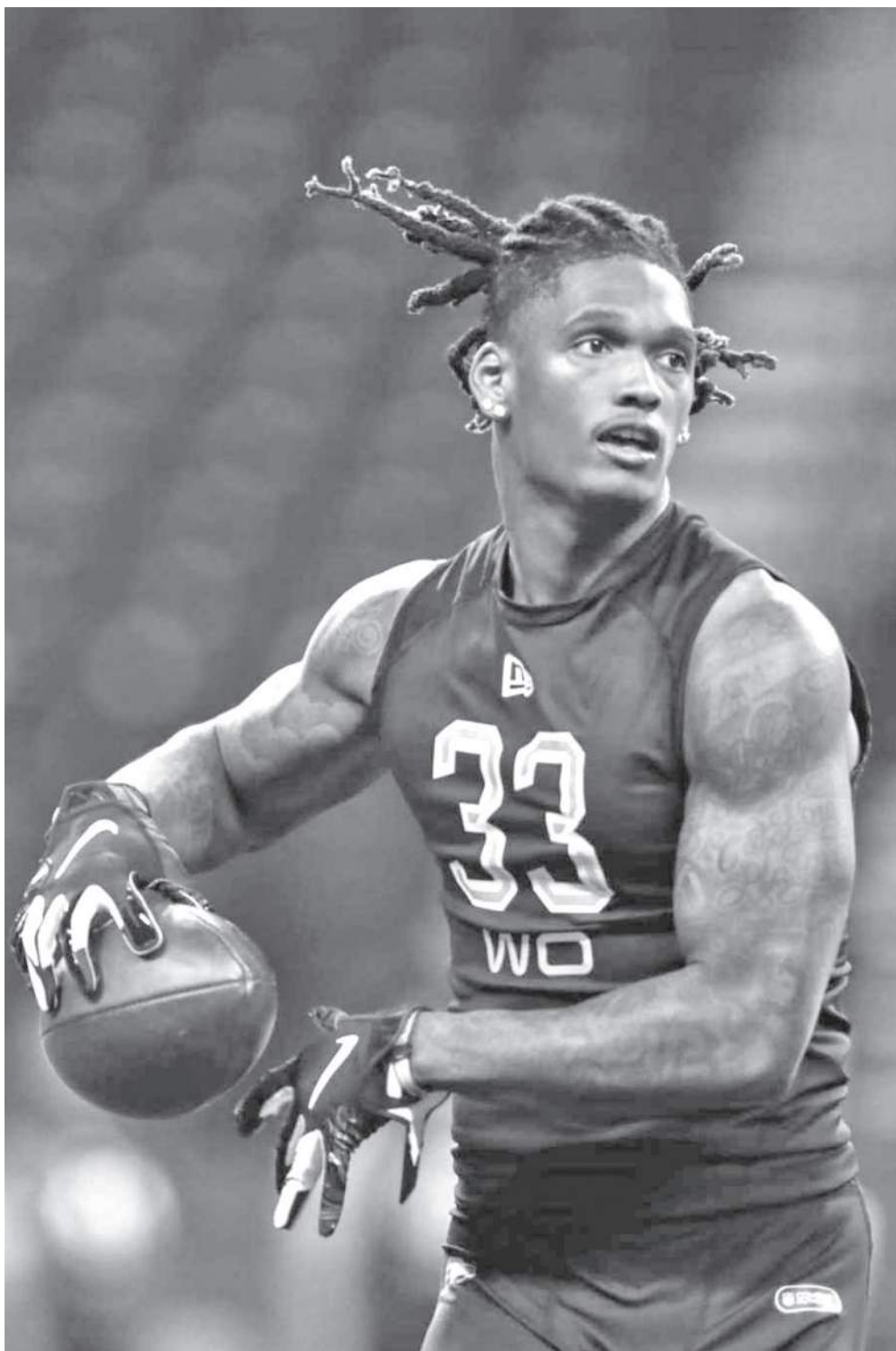
"One of the things that makes it tough to evaluate is that there's so much difference playing at the National Football League level because of all the defenses we see and all the adjustments they have to make," said long-time talent evaluation expert Gil Brandt, a Pro Football Hall of Famer.

Quarterback is the only position with a steeper learning curve, Brandt suggested.

"These guys have to do a lot more things in the NFL as far as adjustments—and do it quickly," he said. "And the other thing is separation. There's a lot of guys that can run fast but they can't separate."

Mark Dominik, a SiriusXM NFL Radio host and former Buccaneers general manager, said receivers go from facing "18-, 19- and 20-year-old young men who aren't as strong or as physical as they're going to end up being" to "going up against a 29-year-old man and it's a huge difference."

"I think that's why you see receivers bust, just because of the different player they're going against."



^{AP}
In this Feb. 27, 2020 file photo, Oklahoma wide receiver Ceedee Lamb runs a drill at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis.

ond- and third-round receiver group has arguably been better than the first-round group," said NFL draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah.

"The challenge in scouting the position is it's almost like two different games for college and the NFL in terms of what routes you're asked to run, which are very limited at the college level," Jeremiah said.

"You watch a college game on Saturday you're going to see a bunch of slants, hitches and go's. It's very limited in terms of what they ask them to do, very limited in terms of them having to read coverage and sight-adjust their routes. They don't see very much press coverage."

Reading and reacting to coverage and keeping defenders from knocking them off their routes can prove difficult even for receivers who dominated college competition.

"There's just a lot of adjustment there, but I give the NFL credit," Jeremiah said. "I think the last couple of years we're seeing the NFL be a little smarter with the transition period for these guys and figuring out ways they can get them on fly sweeps or bubble screens and just get the ball in their hands and let them make plays, simplifying it a little bit while they're young before they can grow and evolve into everything you want them to be."

Jeremiah said last season in particular provided "the blueprint to get these guys on the field and improve that track

record at the position."

Intersecting this meet-you-halfway approach is an uptick in the athleticism of wide receivers, a product of the multiple-receiver sets now the norm all the way down to youth football.

"I think in today's day and age where these guys were starting 7-on-7, it's almost like AAU basketball," Packers GM Brian Gutekunst said.

"The receivers are so much more advanced in terms of their fundamentals coming into college and the league than maybe they have been in the past. It's really just the NFL offense that will take time."

"So I think there's some guys sitting here today that I think will have a chance to make a pretty immediate impact, and I'm excited about that."

Washington Redskins coach Ron Rivera said today's prospects are primed for the pro game as never before.

Top-end receivers this year include Colorado's Laviska Shenault, Alabama's Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III, Oklahoma's Ceedee Lamb, LSU's Justin Jefferson, Arizona State's Brandon Aiyuk and Clemson's Tee Higgins.

"This receivers' class is honestly unbelievable in my eyes," Lamb said. "You can't really go wrong with anybody you draft" in any round. "You're going to get a great pick."

Whether in search of a crisp route-runner, a deep threat, a fearless player going over the middle or even taking the direct snap, there's someone for everyone in this year's draft.

"I think this class is going to do great things," Shenault said.

Right from the start, no less.

That is starting to change, however.

Teams are more willing than ever to bypass the old wait-and-watch standby for a plug-and-play approach with bigger, faster, quicker pass-

catchers coming out.

Calvin Ridley and D.J. Moore made big splashes in 2018, followed by Deebo Samuel, DK Metcalf, Marquise Brown, Terry McLaurin and A.J. Brown, who wasted

no time establishing their credentials last season.

"Last year was a good year in terms of a bunch of rookies coming in and having a lot of success, but if you look over the last several years, that sec-

To trade or not to trade?

An especially difficult question in this year's NFL draft?

The coronavirus pandemic has forced the NFL to conduct its annual draft remotely, which might reduce the number of times Commissioner Roger Goodell or anyone else announces a trade.

General managers around the league said this week the remote nature of the draft will change the way teams move up and down in the order next Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Spur of the moment deals might be difficult to engineer with team officials at their homes and not in "war rooms" in their headquarters. It will be nearly impossible to look around the room for a quick consensus.

And if a communications

NFL GMs think remote draft will alter trading scene

connection is lost—IT guys have been working countless hours to make sure that does not happen—or a phone goes dead, what happens?

The more likely scenarios for trades are ones that are premeditated. Take for example, the Detroit Lions and New York Giants, who hold the third and fourth picks overall, respectively.

Both teams have been listening to offers this week, Lions GM Bob Quinn and Giants counterpart Dave Gettleman have said.

"It's something I would very seriously entertain," said Gettleman, whose team is in position to take a much-needed offensive tackle.

The Lions are listening, too. There has been talk of the Dolphins and others jumping up to No. 3 to grab a quarterback—or whatever.

"I think just the way the world we're living in, with this being virtual, I think a lot of those things, if I'm going to do something, I think we're going to have a pretty good idea Thursday afternoon of where we stand," Quinn said. "I don't think I'm going to be making a huge decision on trading the No. 3 overall pick while I'm on the clock, while I'm virtually talking to our head coach and our other personnel."

Gettleman said the trade squeeze would be felt most af-

ter the second round. The first round is 10 minutes in length. The second is seven. Rounds 3-6 will fall to five minutes a pick. It drops to four minutes in the seventh and final round.

"It's going to be tight to try to do that, to try to trade back or trade up," Gettleman said of the final five rounds. "I think what's going to happen, what this is going to force everybody to do, is do deals before their pick is up. So, let's say ... one team calls another team and says, 'I want to trade up.' They'll make a deal off the clock, and then if the guy is there for the team that wants to move up, then they'll consummate the trade. I think a lot of it is going to be done

ahead of time."

Philadelphia Eagles personnel director Howie Roseman said talks between teams have been no different this week than previous years.

"We all have each other's phone numbers and we all have multiple phone lines," Roseman said. "I think there will be the same level of communication because that doesn't change."

If he wants to talk to Chiefs GM Brett Veach, he's just a call or text away.

Veach is in a new spot for this draft: The Super Bowl champions are bringing up the rear of the opening round.

He won't be alone at his home. The league allows him

and every team to have an IT guy—and a security guard, perhaps to chase away fans who may not like a team's pick.

"One thing that I think every team is most concerned about is just the flow and the effectiveness of communication. If you're on the clock and you're working through your scenarios, then you finally come up with, 'OK, we like this guy,' Veach said. "(Or) we don't like any of these trades. Or, we like this trade, and we want to do this trade. ... I think the scenario that we're all kind of playing through our mind is when you're on the clock and you're about to turn a card in, and then with 45 seconds left, a team comes in and presents a really interesting trade."

Nats won't raise banner until fans are back



WASHINGTON—The Nationals were prepared to raise their World Series banner and distribute championship rings at their April 2 home opener two weeks ago, but they're going to continue to wait to hold those ceremonies until their fans can be a part of them again.

On Saturday, Mike Rizzo, Washington's president of baseball operations, joined MLB Network Radio's Jim Bowden and Jim Duquette on Sirius XM to talk about how the team is handling the suspension of the 2020 season due to the coronavirus outbreak and what he thinks things will look like once baseball returns.

When asked whether he thinks the Nationals are missing out on some of the celebrating they earned when they won the World Series last October, Rizzo explained that the club just plans on waiting the pandemic out until fans are allowed back in stadiums again.

"I think as far as raising the banner and the distribution of rings, we're going to wait for our fanbase to be involved to do those types of things," Rizzo said. "Those are once-in-a-lifetime things to do and our fanbase is such a big factor in helping us win that thing. They earned it, they deserve to be involved in it and we're go-



ing to wait for them to do it."

MLB has reportedly been exploring several scenarios for playing out a truncated season, including several that would move all games to spring training facilities. However, one consistent theme has been a key part of every plan: no fans would be in attendance at the ballparks.

While that's something that could change as the season goes on and the virus is contained, there remains a chance fans won't be able to watch an MLB game in person until 2021.

But if Rizzo's comments hold true, the Nationals will

continue to wait until their fans can be a part of the ceremony before officially closing the book on their championship season.

Top-heavy talents

Meanwhile, Francisco Lindor, for now, remains the franchise cornerstone in Cleveland. He's one of the game's most charismatic and entertaining players, plus he's an outrageous talent—a no-doubt first-round fantasy pick. Lindor is also under team control for the next two years, his manager certainly doesn't want to see him go, and there's no obvious reason for

the ballclub to feel compelled to move him. It's kinda crazy that Lindor trade speculation and rumors were swirling for months. For the sake of Cleveland's fan base, here's hoping he remains a member of the squad long-term. Lindor is endless fun, a 30/20 player in back-to-back seasons. If he slips beyond the seventh pick in your fantasy draft, it's a gift.

Beyond Lindor, there are a handful of bright spots in Cleveland's lineup—notably Jose Ramirez, Franmil Reyes, and Carlos Santana—but also an abundance of meh. It's hard to look at the lineup below and

think it's the equal of either of the lineups above. Last season, this club finished almost perfectly league-average in total runs scored, home runs, team batting average, and OPS.

FLASHBACK

From Page 20

made it two in a row against Wessel, as Hwang also prevailed in their title showdown in the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships held in March last year. Hwang, earlier, took the age group crown in the 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic after beating June Yu, 6-1, 6-1, to start his

AP
In this March 25, 2020 file photo, a truck sits in a largely empty player's parking lot at Nationals Park in Washington.

Cleveland's batting order offers a consensus fantasy first-rounder, one second-rounder, and then, some other dudes. Nobody is gonna confuse this squad with the group that ruled Jacobs Field in the late-90s.

Corey Kluber relocated to Texas via trade in the off-season, so that's one potential ace out of the mix for Cleveland. Over the past two seasons, Mike Clevinger has produced a 10.4 K/9, 3.12 ERA and 1.12 WHIP in 326.0 innings, so he's a circle-of-trust upper-tier fantasy pitcher. The start to his season could be delayed by a week or two (depending on when MLB opens) following meniscus surgery, but the injury is not a long-term worry. He's approved for use at his ADP in Yahoo leagues (56.0).

successful season.

Hwang is now competing in the U14 division and will be one of the players that will return to the court once local competitions resume.

This year's CNMI Junior Championship has been moved to May 29 to 31 and June 5 to 7, but the schedule is still subject to changes depending on the development of the COVID-19 crisis.

TENORIO

From Page 20

that were out of our control. Because of that, we had to deal with a coaching change, as well as learning a new style of play," the former MP United Football Club team captain said.

Under a new system, Tenorio and company won their season debut only to drop their next three matches. It was then a seesaw performance for the Rams in the fall season and they finished the Great Northeast Athletic Conference with a 6-9-1 win-loss-draw record.

"There were definitely frustrating times, but I learned to be patient and give my best regardless of what situation we have been going through. I would say patience and adaptability were the best lessons I learned throughout my rookie season," Tenorio said.

The CNMI striker also got his dose of the physicality of the game.

"Playing internationally for the NMI National Team, I am very used to playing against technically gifted players. In the U.S., players are not as technical as the internationals ones, but they are very physical. I had to learn to adapt to



Suffolk University's Sunjoon Tenorio attacks, while an Emmanuel College defender chases him down.



Sunjoon Tenorio is welcomed by his teammates as he is selected on the starting unit of Suffolk University in their game against Lesley in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference of the NCAA Division III.



Sunjoon Tenorio, back row right, joins the starting unit of Suffolk University for a group photo before their match versus Emmanuel College.

that part of the game. I struggled at the start, but after a few games I started to play better," he said.

Meanwhile, out of their six victories, the Marianas High School graduate believes he played his best in the match against the No. 2 rank Norwich.

"I played as a center mid during the game, which meant that there was not only a lot of

pressure on me to attack and distribute, but also defend and protect the back line. I scored the winner in the 78th minute off a counterattack, and that feeling was amazing, especially playing in front of our home fans. I would say that was my best game because of the way I played both offensively and defensively, and also because the level of opponent," Tenorio said.

With his rookie year over, Tenorio is excited to surpass his freshman achievement when he suits up for the Rams anew.

"My goal for next season is to improve my stats from last season, as well as help get my team to the playoffs. I had a fairly good season so it will not be easy to improve, but I will work toward that and play my best to achieve these goals," he said.



**Kerr
pressured
to play for
Jordan**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**High hopes
on deep
receiver
class**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

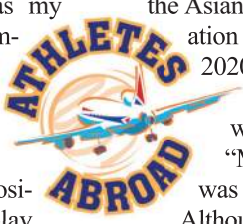
Tenorio: Trusted rookie

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sunjoon Tenorio's impressive rookie season in the National Collegiate Athletics Association is highlighted not only by the individual awards he got, but also by the trust he earned from his collegiate squad.

"Although it was my first season, my teammates respected me and so did my coaches. The coaches trusted me to play multiple positions, and even play the offense through me in many games," said Tenorio, who is back on island after completing his freshman year with the Suffolk University, an NCAA-Division III school in Boston.

Tenorio was named Rams' Rookie of the Year and took the Team MVP honors after leading Suffolk in scoring with his 10 goals. He suited up in 15 out of the Rams' 16 matches (he missed one as he had to play for the CNMI Men's U19 National Team in



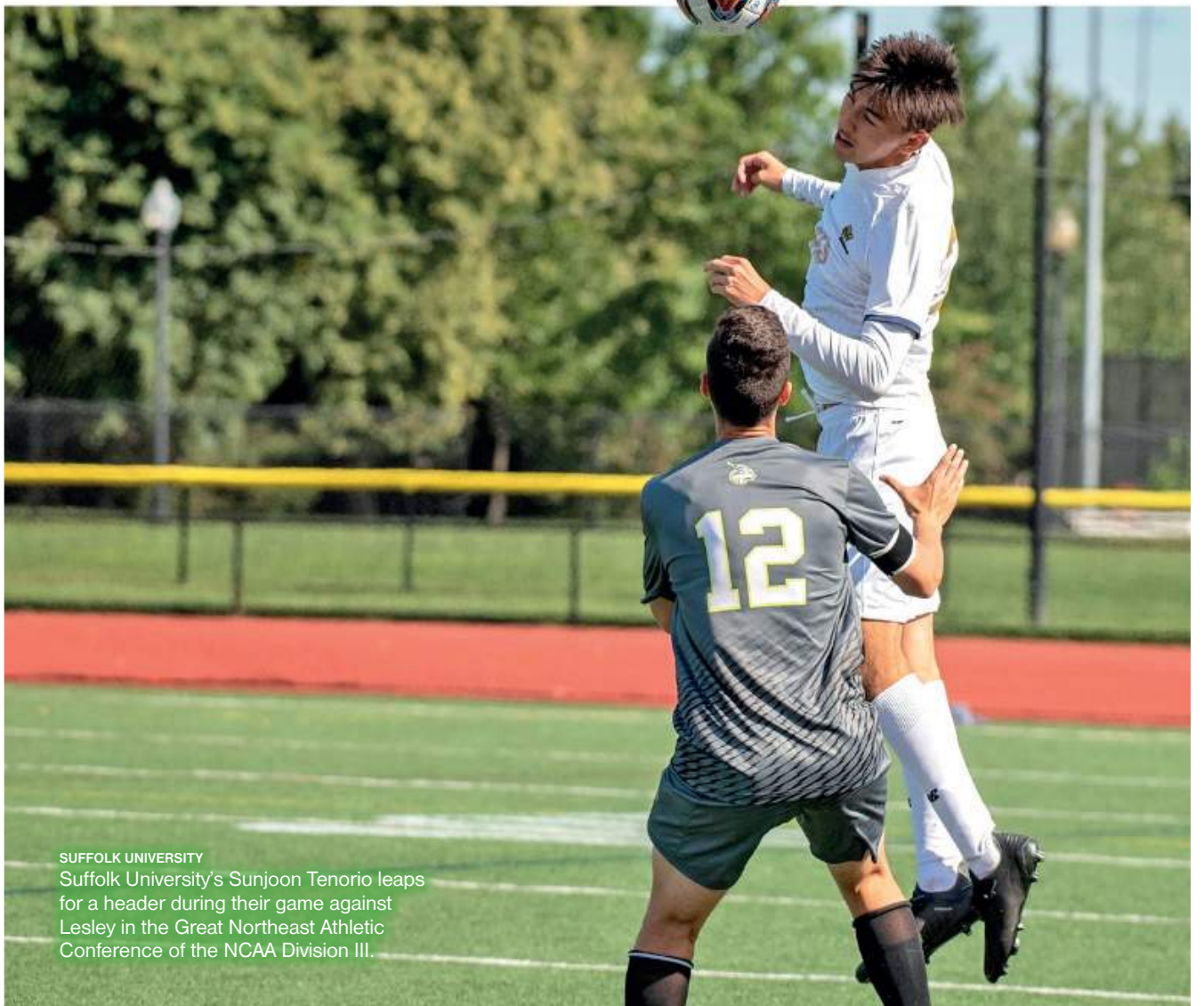
the Asian Football Confederation U19 Championship 2020 Group G Qualifier in Cambodia) and was a starter in 12.

"My rookie season was a very eventful one. Although I got off to a slow start, I picked it up toward the middle of the season after I got used to the college soccer style of play. It was a very good season for me in the sense that I learned a lot from my rookie season," the 19-year-old said.

Among those lessons are how to be patient and adapt to difficult situations.

"In the beginning of the season, we lost our head coach due to certain circumstances

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SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY
Suffolk University's Sunjoon Tenorio leaps for a header during their game against Lesley in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference of the NCAA Division III.

Flashback: Gregoire, Hwang deliver

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With the CNMI Junior Tennis Championship scheduled this month moved to a later date due to the coronavirus pandemic, let's look back at the performance of two outstanding players in the same competition last year.

First up is Anthony Gregoire, who won a nearly three-hour marathon match against David Kwon.

With the boys U14 singles title on the line, neither Gregoire nor Kwon was willing to let their guards down in the finals game that went to a super-tiebreaker third set and became one of the longest tennis matches in the CNMI.

Gregoire drew first blood after taking a 6-3 triumph in the opener. Down, but definitely not out, Kwon bounced back in the second set with a convincing 2-6 triumph to

force a rubber. In the decider, Kwon and Gregoire went back-and-forth and the duel that seemed to have no ending finally wrapped up with the latter escaping with a grueling 22-20 victory.

The tough title win was a good send-off gift for Gregoire, who is now based in Guam.

Incidentally, Gregoire's finals triumph over Kwon was recorded on April 21 last year.

Also accomplished on the same day was Juncheol Hwang's sweep of the boys U12 titles in three tournaments under the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's calendar for the 2018-2019 season.

Hwang marked a 3-peat in the age group after topping Nason Wessel in the finals of the then DFS-sponsored CNMI Junior Championships, 6-0, 6-1. The 12-year-old

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Gregoire



Hwang